

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

NONCONFORMIST.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1869.

[GRATIS.]

Jubilee Meetings.

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The jubilee meeting of this society was held on Tuesday evening, May 11th, at Finsbury Chapel, and there was a full attendance. Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., occupied the chair, and on the platform with him were H. Richard, Esq., M.P., Benjamin Scott, Esq., W. Somerville, Esq., G. F. White, Esq., W. R. Spicer, Esq., Josias Alexander, Esq., John Clapham, Esq., W. Marshall, Esq., C. A. Bartlett, Esq., Revs. Dr. Spence, Dr. Rees, Dr. Halley, J. W. Richardson, R. Ashton, R. Clarke, S. Hebditch, J. Spong, A. McAuslane, J. H. Wilson, &c.

The report, which was read by the Rev. J. H. Wilson, the secretary, commenced with a reference to the formation of the Home Missionary Society fifty years ago, and stated that of all the brethren who were members of the first committee Mr. G. F. Abrahams alone survived. A description was given of the heathenish condition of the rural population when the society commenced its operations, and it was stated that in 1840 it was formally adopted by the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and in addition to its labours in the counties, selected new centres of power, in towns where mission churches were established, most of which have since become self-supporting. The report went on to say:—

In 1860-61 the society considerably modified its plan of operations. Since that time the committee have—(1) encouraged the selection of new points of effort in growing populations; (2) the grouping of villages, so as to form stronger centres for mission work; and (3) the introduction of lay evangelists, who visit from house to house in given districts, and do in the country what efficient City missionaries do in towns. To further these great objects, and with a view to stimulate local effort, rather than continue to appoint the agents and sustain the agencies chiefly from London, arrangements were made to hold conferences with country associations, to promote inquiry into the character and extent of the spiritual destitution which prevailed, and adapt the agencies to the wants of each locality. Deputations, consisting for the most part of the treasurer and secretary, attended these conferences, and were cordially received. Most blessed have been the results. In Sussex, for example, the income of their association was then only 180*l.* a year, and the agencies feeble and disjointed. Now the income is nearly 1,000*l.* a year, and the agencies include seven village pastors and twelve evangelists. In Kent the income then was 184*l.*, and the agents four. Now the income is 900*l.*, and the agents number nineteen. Then the Cumberland Association had only an annual income of 50*l.* to help a few weak churches. Now it raises 500*l.* a year, to aid in sustaining seven stations and five evangelists. In Lincoln the association could only raise 40*l.* in 1860, in 1869 it raises 450*l.*, and employs six evangelists; while nearly all the other counties visited have advanced in the same proportions. In 1860 the society spent 5,000*l.* in sustaining or helping to sustain 115 agents, all of whom were village pastors. In 1868-9 the society spent 6,500*l.* on 118 mission pastorates and 85 lay evangelists, being an increase of 87 in the number of agents during the seven years. In 1860 county associations with whom the society is affiliated, raised 7,812*l.* for home mission work; in 1868, they contributed 18,120*l.* Then the society paid two-thirds of the agencies, while the counties and the local churches provided the other third of the cost; now the society pays on the average one-third, county associations one-third, the other third being raised by the district where the agents are employed—a threefold cord, which is not likely to be easily broken.

But how, it may be asked, has all this increase of paid agency affected the character of the voluntary service? Most favourably. In 1860, for example, there were 100 lay preachers labouring every Sunday among 500,000 people; in 1869 there are 1,400 labouring among 750,000 people; then there were 10,000 children in the Sunday-schools of the society, now there are 16,000, and 1,200 young persons in the Bible-classes of the stations; while the combined efforts of the whole have, by God's blessing, during these seven years, added to the fellowship of the village churches nearly 8,000 souls, 1,000 having been added in 1868-69, the largest number of additions yet recorded in any one year of the history of the society. But who can estimate the good done during these years by the circulation of 1,500,000 tracts, the sale of 20,000 copies of the Scriptures, 150,000 magazines, and more than 800,000 numbers of the *British Workman*, the *Cottager*, and the *Band of Hope Review*?

In view of these facts, the committee cannot but gratefully record their profound sense of the Divine goodness which has been shown to the society during the whole course of its rise and progress, but they believe that the highest possible expression of gratitude which the society can offer is to accept the legacy of its

founders and founders, who, as representative men, in 1820, solemnly resolved "never to stay their efforts until messengers of grace had been sent to every destitute, town, village, and hamlet in the kingdom."

It is mournful to think that, notwithstanding all that has been done, and all that is doing, to promote the evangelisation of England, there should still be room for a Home Missionary Society; yet so it is, and your committee feel, that while the broad, dark, awful facts remain that more than TWO MILLIONS of souls are living in the rural districts in open neglect of the means of grace, the year of jubilee can be no year of rest, but must be one of earnest and combined Christian action. The Church is a home where God's family lives, but is not that family also a race of warriors, every one of whom is enlisted for battle? The Church is the Light of the World, but its light is not for self-illumination; its mission is for dark places. The Church is leaven, but leaven is not to consume its fermenting agency on itself; its function is to change the whole mass, charging each particle with its assimilative power. Let these principles be carried out, and England will yet be evangelised.

JOHN CLAPHAM, Esq., read the financial details.

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his opening speech, said that the Home Missionary Society was the representation of life in their churches, and of late years they had been working through the churches with great effect.

We have sought to stimulate earnest, thoughtful men, ministers and deacons in the various villages and towns, and have succeeded in producing deeper impressions than ever existed before—deeper impressions of what ought to spring out of church life, which means not the mere guarding and strengthening of Christian principle amongst the members of such churches exclusively, but bringing from that Christian life activity in the districts around; and we are able to meet our constituents today with greater confidence than we ever felt, and able with greater confidence to appeal to them for largely increased support. I regret to observe from the balance-sheet that we owe more in proportion to the dead than to the living for our support. I look with a deal of misgiving when I observe a fact like this. It is not for me as treasurer to complain, but gratefully to acknowledge that we have been remembered by those making their wills in the form of legacies, but I advise people to be their own executors, and I do appeal to living Christians to look at this work. Our income ought to be much larger than it is. By adopting the principle we have acted upon for years—of paying our proportion of expenses—say one-third, the church of the district supplying an equal amount, and looking to the new district for a similar contribution, we have largely increased the action of our churches. I would not have it understood that we have had regard only to those districts where such a proportion could be raised: we have agents labouring where we cannot expect any such proportion, but the whole process I believe to be healthy, and at the present time efficient. It ought to be on a larger scale, and I do respectfully appeal to those who are giving little to give more, and to those who have never yet given to give to this society. Sure am I that there is no agency where there is likely to be a better return secured for the money contributed than for a contribution to the Home Mission Society. (Cheers.) I feel increasingly interested in the class of agents we call evangelists. They are working efficiently, and to the satisfaction of the churches in connection with our regular ministers. There was a little feeling on the part of some—a feeling that these evangelists would presume to occupy the position of the regular ministry: I believe every ministry is regular that is doing good service for Christ. (Cheers.) Our experience is that these excellent men, and they are so, in connection with this society, are occupying the places for which they are manifestly fitted, without caring for any other position than that which God has called them manifestly to fill. We have eighty-five such, and we want in this jubilee year to increase the number to a hundred. We never commenced a year with higher and better promise, and shall go on with our work cheerfully, and appeal to the Christian public for aid, feeling that God has prospered us and is prospering us still, and that the claim we have on them is greater than ever. The reference in the report to the origin of the society was deeply interesting, and some names were mentioned who are worthy of honour. It is a cause of thankfulness that the little beginning has reached to such a result. If we had confined ourselves to multiplying agents, we might have made a greater show, but our object has been not to magnify ourselves, but to stimulate action in those directions where it will tell with more blessed effect by far than our merely directing agents who, living a perfectly isolated life, felt weak in comparison with those who, working in connection with the churches, derive help and association in many ways besides pecuniary. Each agent feels himself stronger, although carrying on his work amid much difficulty, from the daily, or at all events weekly, intercourse which he holds with those with whom he is specially associated.

The Rev. Dr. HALLEY, of New College, in moving the adoption of the report, said that he well remem-

bered the formation of that society when he was a student, and the manner in which it was received by the religious public, and especially by their own denomination. There were a few public-spirited men—men of resolution and seal, far-seeing men—and they met with a great deal of discouragement from many pious ministers and pious people around them, but happily they persevered, and he knew no society that had done a better work for England—and what was done for England was done for the world—than the Home Missionary Society. (Cheers.) It had not injured but helped the foreign missions, which indeed, got strength from home missionary operations. Referring to the state of British society in the early part of the present century, especially on the Lord's day, he contended that a great and beneficial change had been wrought by this and similar agencies. True religion had been widely diffused; the moral character of men had been wonderfully improved; and far more than could reasonably be expected had been accomplished. (Hear, hear.)

HENRY RICHARD, Esq., M.P., in seconding the resolution, said that in the discussions on the bill for disestablishing the Irish Church, he had been struck with the eager, greedy scrambling for money on the part of all sorts of persons connected with that religious institution. It seemed as though the men cared for nothing but the money. All kinds of creatures whom he had no idea were connected with an established Church, came to them claiming a vested interest—a vested money interest, not a moral or spiritual interest—a vested interest in the temporalities of the Church. This was not a pleasant spectacle, but he felt thankful amidst it all in the thought that their churches did not depend upon such artificial props. He was expected to say a few words about Wales. There was no nation in the world that had given a better example of Christian devotedness. He would mention a few facts with regard to the Principality to show what could be done by a poor but earnest and devoted people:—

About 120 years ago, or rather less, the number of Nonconformist places of worship in Wales amounted to 101; when the census was taken in 1851 the number was 2,800. (Cheers.) Taking the estimate of Mr. Horace Mann, that if you provide sittings for 58 in 100 of the population, that is sufficient, in that year the Church of England in Wales fell short of that provision by 337,672, and the Nonconformists exceeded it by 2,270. (Cheers.) What has been done since? Some friend of mine has taken great pains to collect the statistics. I have made some use of them in the House, but there I was only able to give general results. I think you will be interested to have them rather more in detail. In Wales there are three principal Nonconformist bodies—the Calvinistic Methodists, the Independents, and the Baptists. Since the year 1851, in eighteen years, the Calvinistic Methodists have built 321 new chapels, rebuilt and enlarged 435, thus providing additional accommodation for 123,881, at a cost of 366,000*l.* The Independents, during the same period, have built 118 new chapels and rebuilt and enlarged 200, providing additional accommodation for 108,000, at a cost of 224,000*l.* The Baptists have, in the same period, built 142 new chapels, and rebuilt 99, affording additional accommodation for 81,800 persons, at a cost of 163,000. (Cheers.) So that in this poor country,—and the mass of the Nonconformists are poor—all the property classes are not only alienated from them, but generally hostile to them,—in these eighteen years the three denominations have provided additional accommodation for 207,698 persons, at a cost of 824,000*l.* Will you permit me, as a little indulgence of my personal pride, to state a fact or two with regard to the particular constituency that elected me? The population of Merthyr Tydfil is about 83,000. The number of churches, Episcopal chapels, and schoolrooms is nineteen; the number of Nonconformist chapels and schoolrooms is 101; the Episcopal contains 8,500 sittings, the Nonconformist 53,600. Since 1851 seven Episcopal churches and four schoolrooms have been built in that borough; in the same period forty-nine have been erected by Nonconformists, and nineteen enlarged. Had I not a right to say I felt proud of the voluntary principle after seeing all this higgling and squabbling for the spoil, as though they thought it impossible for a Christian church to be supported without State aid? It may be said, If Wales has done so much, why come to England to ask for further chapel-building in Wales? It is evidence of healthy appetite when persons, like Oliver Twist, ask for more. But, in point of fact, Wales comes to England for assistance in order to evangelise the sons of England. The Welsh have provided ample means of instruction for themselves. Occasionally friends in England have most kindly and generously aided "chapel cases," as they are called; but substantially the Welsh people provided all this accommodation out of their own resources. The Calvinistic Methodists pride themselves upon never having crossed the Severn to ask assistance

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

The most popular question of the day seems to be, "What will Lord Derby do"? The *John Bull* has given currency to a statement that the noble earl will move the rejection of the Irish Church Bill; but, with one or two exceptions, very few persons credit this statement, and we notice that last week our contemporary did not seem to feel quite so sure about its accuracy; and, therefore, in referring to doubts that had been expressed, felt obliged to add a few words of encouragement to the great Tory leader. He is assured, for instance, that "the country will thoroughly back him up," and told that meetings almost without number are being held, or are about to be held. At Salford there are to be "fourteen platforms, from which the people will be simultaneously addressed." The statement to which the *John Bull* has given currency has, however, been denied, and, it is said, by Lord Derby's own personal friends. Our own impression is, that no one can with any precision, or any authority, predict what the Lord will do, or know what this one lord will do. But as the *Guardian*, quite as good an authority as any other journal, very sensibly says, while expressing its disbelief in the rumour:—

Lord Derby, then, may possibly, in some fit of disgust, have threatened a war & outrance, but statesmen have sudden gusts of temper like other people, and they get over them. Lord Derby is moulded in a chivalrous type, and he feels himself the champion of a large number of men, whose political hopes are now bitterly disappointed, and whose favourite institution, and whose very standard of a religious nation, are now violated. With the dissolution of Church and State in Ireland, they think everything gone, they are in despair. We doubt not that this has appealed to Lord Derby's generous feelings, and that he may have said something on the spur of the moment which encouraged the most extravagant hopes. He is—with all difference to him—more of a great champion than a great statesman, and this is just the occasion for championship, had we been living in other days. But it is just too late for chivalry—i.e., for the full and inspired function of the ideal champion. There has been a decadence in the strength of great institutions, and an idea is more and more taking possession of the popular mind, that religion must stand upon its own merits, and its own ground. This idea is not an impulsive, or a violent or precipitate idea in the mass; it is a calm view gradually advancing, and feeling itself stronger, and with more hold over the nation every year. It is a serious damper upon all chivalrous defence of institutions. It teaches moderate tactics, compromise, negotiation, not war.

For ourselves, we think it quite possible that the *John Bull* may turn out to be correct to the letter, but to the letter only. The rejection may be moved as stated, but it need not be persisted in. We speak, however, with no authority, and are quite persuaded that this is about the case with all our contemporaries.

The special Church Conference, commenced at Sheffield on Monday, appears to be well attended, and it has certainly begun in good spirit. The purpose of all these conferences was well put before the meeting by the Archbishop of York, who remarked that Convocation was not a fairly representative body, and it was desirable that the members of the Church—clergy and laity—should meet and take counsel together. The archbishop vindicated, with great earnestness, the title of the laity to be heard, and was eloquent in his expressions of hope for good results from the meeting. As far as we can gather, the objects of this assembly are not sectarian, nor in the technical sense, ecclesiastical. It is the first of a series of meetings for the promotion of the religious efficiency of the Church in the north. We can have nothing but sympathy with such a movement, and we can believe that more will come from it than even the Archbishop hopes.

The new Bishop of Peterborough—Dr. Magee—appears to be in a difficulty. By the rule of the Peers the junior bishop must be chaplain of the House, and although the duties of chaplain are not, as every one knows, very onerous, they may interfere considerably with the other duties of a bishop. Dr. Magee says that his diocese suffers from his compulsion to attend the House of Lords. The confession is remarkable, for, in fact, it must, in a less degree, implicate the whole bench. If Dr. Magee cannot attend the Lords, can any bishop attend? It may be said that daily attendance is not compulsory on others; but if a man be a peer, and especially we suppose, if he be a spiritual peer, his attendance should be constant. What otherwise is the use of spiritual peers? This incident, in fact, brings us back to the old cry, "No lord bishops!" but we hardly expected a lord bishop himself to suggest it.

Amongst the higher order, as regards character and abilities, of clergymen of the Church, Mr. Liddon, of Oxford, ranks the highest. Mr. Liddon has recently addressed a meeting of the English Church Union on Church and State. The report of what took place is imperfect, but we are told that Mr. Liddon urged, with great force, that

the duty of Churchmen, individually and in corporate bodies, was "not to hasten disestablishment, but quietly to prepare for it, so as not to be at a loss how to act when in the providence of God, that which is clearly inevitable is actually brought about." This is another of the increasing number of testimonies to the gradual decay of faith in establishments as such. Men are not only not opposing their abolition, but are "preparing" for it.

All our readers know, there has been a movement on foot in Scotland for the union of the principal Presbyterian Churches. All these Churches have been, or are now, holding their annual meetings, and it appears to be settled that the active negotiations for union shall for a time be suspended. We are glad to notice that the United Presbyterians are as firm as ever in their adherence to the anti-State-Church principle, and that there is no prospect of the least wavering upon that point, or of any unsatisfactory or dishonest compromise of it. Amongst others, however, the Rev. George Gilfillan does not hold with the union, and he preached last week a remarkable sermon on this subject, some sentiments of which are worth attention,—

There are symptoms in the age which cast ominous conjecture on the whole success of the scheme. Disintegration and separation are at present the intellectual work of the age. The time for fusion and construction has not yet fully come. The two main symptoms of the time, theologically, seem to be—First, The pulverisation of all sects and creeds, and, secondly, premature construction. Our unionists and others are begun to construct too soon, before the pulverisation has done its legitimate work. This is like rebuilding a house part of which has been torn down by the first squall of a tornado, in the lucid interval preceding the second and more terrible storm. Opinion is at present in a wild and weltering state, and may continue so for a long while to come. Forced union just now would be like the premature freezing which sometimes takes place in a norland ocean—it would be followed by a breaking up of the ice and by a fiercer confusion than before. And, after all, such a union, when consummated, might be only that of cold and death. If effected at present, it would saddle Churches with a load of dogmas and formulas partaking more of the contractness of the past than of the expansiveness of the future, and would, in the present state of thought, set either as a bounty on hypocrisy, or as a preserving salt to absurd and exploded error. Even supposing unity were attained, it was a questionable blessing. A noble Spaniard, Castellar by name, had been lately, in a voice that was startling Europe like one of the trumpets of the Apocalypse, denouncing ecclesiastical unity as one of the greatest curses of the time, and proclaiming instead the lava-like liberty of individual thought. That proclamation applied not to Spain alone but to Scotland too; and while the former country was gaining freedom of thought and freedom of speech, it would be a burning shame were the latter succumbing under a burden of literalism, "bulk without spirit vast"; Broadcreeds laying their hundred-handed grasp on the intellectual faculties of the acutest people on the face of the earth, and binding them down to the dry dust and dogmatisms of the past. He hoped better things; he entertained the prospect that this was a burden we could not bear any longer, as our fathers had often felt restive under it—that our Christian belief, as a binding tie, would soon be included in a few leading principles; and he had moreover confidence that the Dissenting laity of the land, to whom the subject was now referred, would secure this result to themselves by timely, judicious, and energetic action.

Shall we say that there is a truth in this which is apt to be too much overlooked?

THE OPPOSITION TO THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

What will the Lords do? is a question that has not of course yet received an authoritative answer. The London correspondent of the *Western Daily Press* (Bristol) says:—"There is no foundation whatever for the statement of the *John Bull* that the Earl of Derby had undertaken to move the rejection of the Irish Church Bill on the motion for its second reading in the House of Lords. The fact is, that the party does not know what to do. The perfect unity of the Liberals upon the question, and the overwhelming majorities with which the Government have carried all their points, have thoroughly disheartened the Conservatives, and nothing can be known of the course they will take until the meeting of the Peers to consider the subject."

The *Globe* does not endorse the declaration of the *John Bull* that the Lords will throw out the Irish Church Bill on the second reading, but, somewhat oracularly, announces that they will act up to the highest dictates of patriotism, and will raise themselves above the disturbed atmosphere of party politics. The *Echo*, confidently asserts that they have not made up their minds. The *Dublin Evening Mail*, speaking for Orangeism, of which it is the representative, very earnestly deprecates Lord Derby's moving the rejection of the Irish Church Bill. It objects not to the motion, but to the man. If Lord Derby moves the rejection, it will be an undoubted party division. He should leave it for Lord Westbury or the Marquis of Salisbury. The danger, says the *Mail*, to which the cause of the Church is now exposed, is that it will be dealt with by the Conservative "leaders" as a party, and not as a public question.

The *Record* says:—

The statement that Lord Derby is to move the summary rejection of the bill on its coming to the House of Lords, is contradicted by the noble Earl's personal friends. The House of Lords is said to be in a

very disorganised position. Besides the Government party, headed by Lord Granville, and the regular Conservative party over which Lord Cairns is lieutenant-general, with Lord Derby in the background, there is a third party, who look to the Marquis of Clanricarde and Lord Westbury as leaders, and propose "to defer the settlement of the Irish Establishment to the time when Parliament shall have before it the whole scheme of the Government relative to Ireland," including Irish land tenure as well as the Irish Church Bill. Then there is Earl Russell, whose skill in embarrassing Cabinets to which he does not belong seems to be a second nature, and who, in the present instance, is quickened in his feelings by his own position as an Irish landlord. Then we have the Marquises of Salisbury, who, like most Ultra-Churchmen, is very cold towards the Irish Church, and yet is a political Conservative, although a bitter enemy of Mr. Disraeli. His companion in exile from Lord Derby's Cabinet, Lord Carnarvon, has, however, made up his mind to vote in favour of the bill. There is also Lord Overstone, who may probably go with Lord Russell or the Adullamite party, and is known to be adverse to Mr. Gladstone's policy. We believe that nothing will be decided as to the course to be pursued in the House of Lords until after the Whitsuntide recess.

A deputation has waited upon Lord Cairns, the majority of whom urged the rejection of the bill, but it is stated by the Dublin correspondent of a London journal that his lordship intimated that the best course, under all the circumstances, would be for the Lords to pass the Church Bill, with, of course, some modifications. He thought it probable that, if the bill were thrown out, Mr. Gladstone would hold an autumnal session, and send the bill back to the Lords a second time, and that ultimately the measure would be forced through the House.

The Dublin "standing committee" of the Church Conference, which lately seemed disposed rather to stand at ease than fight, has been obliged by the pressure from without to resume active operations in opposition to the Ministerial Bill. A resolution has been adopted in favour of sending a deputation to urge the Lords to throw out the bill by 28 to 9. This "No surrender" deputation will comprise delegates from the Church Conference, the Protestant Defence Associations, and the late meeting of Presbyterians in Belfast, who will be joined in London by deputations from the Church Institution and other bodies. There will be a formidable "gathering of the clans," every Conservative member of the House of Commons being invited to meet the Lords, who will be invited to meet them in Chesterfield House by a requisition signed by the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Cairns, Lord Longford, the Primate of Ireland, and the Archbishop of Dublin.

A great Protestant demonstration was held on Saturday in the Botanic Gardens, Belfast. Over 15,000 people were present. Mr. Johnston, of Ballykilbeg, occupied the chair. Strong speeches were delivered against the Church Bill, and further measures adopted to oppose it.

On the 31st Monday next, Mr. Holt, one of the members for Lancashire, will move the rejection of the bill on the third reading, but it is understood the debate will only last one night.

THE EDUCATION MINISTER AND THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

Speaking from the chair at an educational meeting in Leeds, Mr. Forster, M.P. (Vice-President of the Committee of Council), said:—

It was impossible for the State to interfere in the matters of education and relief of the poor without some degree of danger, which must be instantly guarded against. A poor man must be made to understand that education was not given as a matter of charity, but a work of co-operation. It was the duty of Government when dealing with education to consider the question as a great whole, and it was the business of the State to turn the Universities and the endowed schools into great national institutions, to which all parties and all creeds had access. Grammar-schools had been too much forgetful of the poor, and there had been too much aping of the education of Eton. If that departure from the necessities of these days had not occurred, the secondary schools would have better answered their purposes. Speaking of the Universities, he said a man could not obtain his degree until he was twenty-two, and he complained that the time was much longer than it need be. Boarding-schools, he considered, had arisen from the secondary classes imitating the ways of those above them. It was said they must be very careful how they changed the standard of education; that it would be disadvantageous to those who were born with silver spoons in their mouths. He believed the day was gone by when men were born rulers, and no arrangement would be more unjust to the gentlemen of England than to give them educational establishments exclusively to themselves. The more efficient the education of great schools was made the more efficient would be the education in the schools for the poorer classes. It had been his duty to inquire into the education of the working classes, and he found that unless they made the grammar schools teachers of what was wanted, they would be no longer schools of the greatest use, schools in which the cleverest boys of the working classes could be brought up. The great feature of his bill was to make use of these endowments for the development of talent wherever it could be found. At present there was very little chance for clever boys of working parents. If they were to keep pace with other countries, they could not afford to let any talent lie dormant, and they must call it out and give it opportunity to rise. He hoped to see every large town in the country rating itself to have one of these reformed grammar schools, because they would see how good they were; and the time would come when in all elementary, national, and British schools, there would be exhibitions by means of which the cleverest boy would be able to ascend to the greatest position. He was glad to find that at Birmingham, Faversham, and other places, including Doncaster, the main provision of his bill had been anticipated. In his bill there were two ideas,—

one, a reform of the endowed schools by a temporary commission, and the other a good system of examination and the means of raising the educational profession by means of an Educational Council. This last idea had attracted a good deal of attention in Yorkshire, but his first object was to provide some means by which the endowed schools when reformed might be kept good. He had wished to provide some machinery which should show the trustees how the masters were teaching, and also that there should be a sort of guarantee by the granting of certificates that the master appointed was fit for teaching. Schoolmasters were not considered as they ought to be as a profession, as one of the noblest professions. He sought to appoint an Educational Council, and the idea was a new one, but he thought the more schoolmasters and parents looked at it the more they would like it. Asking what mechanics' institutions had to do with all this, he said they would be the means of providing bridges from one class of schools to another, so that the poor child should have the chance if he had the faculty of becoming a scholar for the benefit of his country. Ignorance was weakness, and weakness meant pauperism and crime. There never was a time when the people in England were more proud of the glory of their country and wished to maintain it, and that could only be done by helping to make each individual stronger, and increasing his culture.

Drawing to a close, the right hon. gentleman alluded specially to the religious question:—

He was not overrating the power of mere educational knowledge, but he knew very well that there was that which was far more important than mere learning and teaching. It was a great thing and a good thing to know the laws that govern this world, but it was better still to have some sort of faith in the relations of this world with another, and the knowledge of cause and effect could never replace the motive to do right and avoid wrong. But it was unnecessary to make the contrast. And if he were merely a politician looking forward to the future of his country, he would have more hope than he could have from anything his friends could do for education if he could see a John Wesley exciting religious fervour in the minds of the masses. He believed that our clergymen and our ministers were more useful than the schoolmasters, and yet the greater facility you could give a boy the better he was for the minister of religion to deal with. He did not wish it to be supposed that he was putting secular education in the face of religion. Let him take a trade comparison. Religion was the motive power; the faculties were the machines; and the machines were useless without the motive power. Nay, a small quantity of machinery regularly used would produce more work than that which was used by fits and starts, and in the same way nothing would make up for the constant and prevailing influence of religion. (Hear.) But, after all, provided that the motive power be equal to the occasion, and the machines be as heavy and as numerous as possible, we might trust Christianity that it would meet the wants of men in the future as it had in the past. Let the motive power be strong enough—and he had faith that it would—and then the better the machinery, and the more of it, the more and the better the work that would be produced. (Loud applause.)

THE ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES BILL.—Mr. M'Evoy, at the suggestion of Mr. Gladstone, will (according to the *Irish Times*) not proceed further with this measure until after the fate of the Irish Church Bill in the Upper Chamber is known. The next stage, should it be considered expedient to press the bill this session, will come on for consideration about the 14th July.

PUBLIC BODIES AND CHURCH-RATES.—It was stated at the meeting of the Liverpool Workhouse Committee on Friday, that the churchwardens of the parish of Walton, near Liverpool, in which the auxiliary workhouse is situated, had demanded the sum of 21. 5s. for Church-rates. Although the rate was only $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the pound, it was refused, some members of the committee objecting to it on principle. The law clerk also pointed out that such rates were now purely voluntary, though public bodies could pay them if they chose.

THE SCOTCH CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT.—Mr. McLaren, M.P. for Edinburgh, has given notice of the following motion:—"To call attention to the annual grant to the Church of Scotland of 22,139*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* from the Consolidated Fund: namely, of 17,039*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* for augmentation of stipends to Scotch clergy; of 2,000*l.* to the General Assembly, Church of Scotland, for itinerant preachers; of 1,100*l.* to the Procurator, for salaries of officers, Church of Scotland; and of 2,000*l.* to the High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (Finance Accounts, p. 45); and to inquire whether the First Lord of the Treasury will consider the propriety of introducing a bill during next session of Parliament to abolish all or any of these grants, and to commute all personal interests connected therewith in the same manner as the personal interests connected with the *Regium Donum* and Maynooth grants have been commuted in the Irish Church Bill."

DR. PUSEY AND MR. LIDDON ON "DIESTABLISHMENT."—On Tuesday the annual festival of the Oxford Branch of the English Church Union took place. There were early celebrations of the Eucharist at several of the parish churches, and a mid-day celebration with a procession and the Te Deum at SS. Philip and James' Church. Mr. Hutchins, of Clewer, and Dr. Oldknow, were the preachers. At the meeting, speeches were made by Dr. Bright (the chairman), Dr. Pusey, Mr. Liddon, Mr. Lowder, and others. The Rev. Dr. Pusey spoke on "The relations of the Church and the civil power." He considered himself as asked to express his opinion as to whether there was anything in the atmosphere of the time to cause special apprehension to Churchmen. "Watchman! what of the night?" They would remember that watchmen were not seers. Circumstances were, in a remarkable way, confused. Yet, if he [were]

asked generally—What are we to expect? he would say, "Anything." "What are we to fear?" "Nothing." "What are we to hope?" "Everything." (Cheers.) To a certain extent the frequent attacks upon the Church were indications of its strength. It was against the rocks that the waves dashed. The Establishment had not more to fear than the State. The question of tithes would issue in a general one of land. Both were vulgar questions as compared with others. Some thought that the Church should grant anything for the sake of peace. He deemed that presence of war was inspiring, which called out the Church's power of endurance. In some further remarks, he regretted that illness prevented him from saying more. The Rev. H. P. Liddon, after introductory remarks, said that disestablishment was pretty sure to come before the end of the century. But it should not be the office of the English Church Union to hasten it. Its office, rather, was to prepare the Church for that event by rousing within her the sense of personal sacramental and of corporate church life. The time would soon come when the statesmen of the day would be prepared to send the Church out in the cold. But the State could not deprive it of gifts which it never gave. Therefore let each in his sphere do all that he could for the preservation of the truth in his generation, and leave the future with confidence to God. (Cheers.) Other speeches followed.

LETTER FROM DR. M'NEILE TO MR. GLADSTONE.—The Dean of Ripon (Dr. Hugh M'Neile) has addressed to Mr. Gladstone a letter which fills rather more than two columns of the *Times*, in which he endeavours to show that religious equality is a visionary idea, and that the Premier is sacrificing solid advantages to its pursuit. The Dean begins by asking the Prime Minister (whom he calls "the leader of a tyrant majority"), whether he has the patience to read a remonstrance, or whether he is so elated by success as to have hardened his heart against any whisper of the possibility of having made a mistake. Dr. M'Neile's argument is that ascendancy of some kind we must have; that in order to have religious equality human nature must be changed in a way altogether beyond the reach of human powers; the next step, therefore, is to inquire into the rival systems, and whichever of them you find most conducive to the protection and enlargement of human mind, to the progressive development of human resources, to the improvement of human morals, and, above all, to the propagation of Scriptural religion, should command the willing suffrages and active support of every enlightened Christian man. Of course the Dean has no difficulty in establishing to its own satisfaction that Protestantism as against Romanism fulfils the conditions he lays down, and hence it is proved to be clearly wrong that Romanists should be placed on the same footing as Protestants. The Dean's letter has called forth two very energetic protests—the one from Sir George Bowyer, a Roman Catholic, the other, from "A Protestant." Sir George characterises Dr. M'Neile's letter as a series of incorrect statements. Sir George indignantly denies the truth of the statement that the Church would allow the use of duplicity, falsehood, perjury, poison, pistol, &c., and closes his letter by quoting the Ninth Commandment. "A Protestant" says he did not believe it possible that an educated man in a high position could hold, much less publish, opinions worthy of the darkest ages. He protests against this disgraceful libel on millions of our fellow-subjects going forth to Europe as the opinion of English Protestants.

CHURCH-RATE PROSECUTIONS IN HULL.—The cases against the Rev. R. A. Redford, Mr. Thorpe, and Mr. Richards, for non-payment of Church-rates, were again before the Hull stipendiary magistrates on Wednesday. Mr. Charles Wells, one of the churchwardens of the parish of Sculcoates, appeared to support the summonses, and in reference to Mr. Redford's case, said that he believed it had been adjourned that the defendant might give his decision as to whether he would go to an ecclesiastical court, and to show that he had a *bona fide* objection to the validity of the rate. Mr. Redford now stated his objections; and Mr. Travis, in giving his judgment, said it was very well laid down that the whole of the circumstances must be looked at by the justices in order to ascertain how far the party was acting *bona fide* or not. The question now was how far the matters that Mr. Redford had mentioned were capable of proof. He was not at all convinced by anything that he had heard that day, and it was only right to say so, that the rate was not a perfectly good rate. But Mr. Redford had shown him his own belief sufficiently in the substantiality of his objections as to make him (Mr. Travis) believe that he had acted *bona fide* in disputing the rate. Suffice it for him to say that he had no power to go further. The case of Mr. Thorpe was then taken. Mr. Spurr appeared for the defendant, and in the outset said he should dispute the validity of the rate. Mr. Travis then said that he should decline to go on with it. It was stated that Mr. Richards' (the other defendant's) was the same, and the case was not investigated. A distress warrant was issued against Mr. Spurr.

CHURCH-RATES IN SOUTHWARK.—Notwithstanding the passing of the Church-rates Abolition Bill of last session, it would appear that Church-rates are not wholly extinct in the metropolis. The bill received the royal sanction on the 31st of July last, and on that very day the churchwardens of St. Saviour's, Southwark, made a rate, and proceeded to enforce it. Many persons objected to pay it, not only because they were opposed to Church-rates on principle, but because they considered it exceedingly sharp practice. Among those who felt aggrieved were the tenants of the Improved Industrial Dwellings Company, and their case being taken up by the directors, it was resolved, if possible, to resist the levy; and, accordingly, on summonses being issued against the tenants, they instructed counsel to attend and oppose the levying of the rate. Friday being the day appointed for hearing the summonses by the magistrates for East Brixton and Southwark, Mr. Latimer appeared on behalf of the persons who had been summoned. In the meantime, however, the learned counsel had discovered that by the 5th section of the Church-rates Abolition Act parishes in which the tithes had been commuted into Church-rates, or where a sum of money had been borrowed upon the security of the rates, were excepted from the operation of the Act, and that one of those conditions applied to Southwark. He therefore informed the churchwardens and magistrates sitting in the vestry hall that he felt himself unable to resist the claim. The usual order for payment was accordingly made.

THE HANSE BIBLE.—During the gatherings of the past week a small party of friends had an opportunity of hearing from Dr. Ginsberg the results of those investigations among the great continental libraries which he has now for some time been prosecuting in the hope of furthering a recension of the text of the Hebrew Bible. In these inquiries many Congregationalists have taken considerable interest. Dr. Ginsberg has found, and with immense labour copied, several valuable Masoretic MSS., especially at Hallé, where he lit upon an "Ochla vi Ochla," a Masora commencing with those words, which he has good reason to believe once belonged to Elias Levita, a famous Talmudist of the ninth century, and which was avowedly incorporated with the more recent Masoras to which reference is usually made. It may suffice to explain for the unlearned reader that a Masora is a sort of complicated concordance of the Hebrew Scriptures, with critical notes upon almost every word and letter, fixing their pronunciation, force, and meaning. Dr. Ginsberg intends to publish a complete Masora, perfected by the collation of every accessible MS., with a list of references to chapter and verse in English, so as to make this hitherto most obscure and difficult work available to all Hebrew scholars. He has already with great labour copied several of the principal MSS., and is about to resume his researches in Spain, Palestine, and perhaps in St. Petersburg.—*English Independent.*

BAPTIST AND FOREIGN SAILORS' SOCIETY.—The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the friends of this society was held on Friday at the London Tavern, under the presidency of Mr. C. Reed, M.P. The secretary (Mr. Fieldwick) read the report, from which it appeared that the instrumentality employed by the society consisted of the Bible, the missionary, the tract, the Bethel meeting, temperance lectures, the library, &c. The extent of the society's operations may be inferred from the following statistics:—Visits to ships, 38,947; visits to seamen's lodgings-houses, 2,407; visits to seamen's families, 7,473; services on board ships, 1,135; seamen attending the latter, 11,720; emigrants attending, 2,043; services on shore, 3,476, attended by 176,102; Bibles sold, 2,339; Testaments sold, 2,955; foreign Gospels given, 12,743; religious and other publications given, 301,288. The balance-sheet showed the receipts for the past year to have been 4,678*l.* 8*s.*; and, deducting the ordinary disbursements, there was a balance in hand of 97*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said he had seen and heard sufficient to satisfy him that the position of the mariner should be placed in a better condition. He strongly urged an earnest appeal to the great firms and corporate bodies for increased pecuniary support.

SALE OF ADVOWSONS.—No wonder that foreigners find it hard to understand us and our ways. We have no official candidates like those gentlemen who are now bowing over all France before the people; but then let anyone who values decency and temperance visit France next week, and he will find no drunkenness, no noise, no wanton expenditure, no treating, no paying for cabs. On the other hand, suppose a French curé, doubtful as to the rights of Rome and inclined to Protestantism, had by chance strolled into the Auction Mart on Wednesday, and heard a very respectable auctioneer encouraging biddings for the advowson and next presentation to the Rectory and Vicarage of Westborough with that of Dry Doddington, in the county and diocese of Lincoln, the great inducement being that the present rector was seventy-three years of age, and that therefore the fat living would be sure soon to fall to the purchaser. It appears that this old clergyman, whose life became the text of the auctioneer's discourse, was chosen by the trustees in whom the patronage is vested on account of his age and infirmities, in order to increase the selling value of the advowson in the market. We well know all the arguments that support such a system, and there is great force in them; but it would be quite impossible to render them intelligible to the bewildered curé, who would fancy it was a religion of devils, which was thus connected with the Auction Mart. How could you make him understand that, "Here you are, gentlemen; going-going, a fine fat living, with an infirm old person put in on purpose to raise the value!" was part of a beneficial system?—*Echo.*

Religious and Denominational News.

Mr. Charles J. C. New, of Cheshunt College, has accepted a unanimous invitation from the Independent church assembling in Robertson-street Chapel, Hastings, to become assistant-minister with the Rev. James Griffin.

Mr. Edward Henry Smith, of New College, London, has accepted an invitation to the pastorate of the church at Abergavenny, from which the Rev. H. J. Bunt, after a service of more than thirty years, has been compelled, by failing health, to retire.

COVENTRY.—A few evenings since a meeting took place at West Orchard Chapel, Coventry, when the church and congregation presented to their pastor, the Rev. E. H. Delf, an address, a beautiful timeworn, and a purse of seventy guineas. The Rev. G. B. Johnson, of Birmingham, presided. Mr. W. F. Taylor, the senior deacon, made the presentation. In doing so, he said: It is now more than twenty-five years since you entered upon the pastorate of this Christian church; first in conjunction with our late revered friend and pastor, the Rev. John Jerard, and afterwards as sole pastor. We review this period with much gratitude to the Great Head of the Church. It has been a period of unbroken peace and harmony, due, in no small measure, to the prudence, and wisdom, and Christian temper by which your presidency over us has been uniformly marked. Through the blessing of God resting upon your faithful ministration of the Word, many have been added unto the Lord, while those who have believed have been built up in their most holy faith. This house of God has, during the same period, been enlarged and rendered in many ways more commodious and dignified; and in place of confined and ill-constructed schoolrooms we have now rooms that are spacious and admirably adapted for their purpose. We regard it as an additional cause of thankfulness that during the long period of your pastorate you have lived on the most friendly terms with the ministers of our own and other denominations in this city and in the country, and have justly won the respect and esteem of all who know you by your unwavering fidelity to the high and holy principles of your profession, by your frank and genial disposition, and by your readiness to aid in the promotion of every good work. Mr. Delf having acknowledged the gift, the Rev. S. B. Driver, the Rev. J. Sibree, the Rev. J. Gordon, of Evesham, the Rev. T. Rosevear, and the Rev. R. W. Dale, addressed the meeting.

LEAMINGTON.—A recognition service in connection with the settlement of the Rev. F. S. Attenborough, late of Uckfield, as pastor of the Holly-walk Church, Leamington, was held on May 6th, under the presidency of the Rev. E. H. Delf, of Coventry. The Rev. T. B. Atteborough, late of Newark, proposed inquiries to the church and pastor as to the issuing and acceptance of the invitation; and replied having been given, the Rev. W. Slater, the late minister of the church, offered the recognition prayer. After congratulatory addresses from the chairman, and the Revs. J. Sibree, of Coventry, J. Button, of Kenilworth, and J. M. Blackie, LL.B., of Leamington, the Rev. Professor Newth, of Lancashire Independent College, delivered an address to the pastor; and the Rev. G. B. Johnson, of Edgbaston, having addressed the church, the Rev. W. Pollard Davies brought the proceedings to a close with prayer. The Revs. H. J. Heathcote, of Erdington; J. W. Kiddie, of Coventry; O. E. Boughton, of Southam; B. B. Waddy, W. H. Sisterton, W. A. Salter, of Leamington, and other neighbouring ministers, were also present, most of them taking part in the engagements.

Arrangements have been made by the Evangelical Alliance for a day of united and universal prayer for the children of Christian parents, to be held on Tuesday, the 1st June. It is proposed that prayer-meetings should be held wherever practicable.

Jubilee services in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the ministry of Dr. Harper, of Leith, took place on Wednesday night, and were largely attended. The Rev. Doctor was presented with a cheque for 1,200*l.*, a massive silver epergne, and other articles of plate.

THE Wesleyan Methodists.—Last year the number of the church-members was 342,380, the increase for the year having been 5,310. It appears likely that the increase which will be reported to the forthcoming Conference in Hull will be much less. Twenty-four of the thirty-two districts in Great Britain show a new increase of about 2,200 members, and about 15,000 persons "on trial" for church-membership. The Cornwall district, one of the chief centres of Methodism, has not yet reported its numerical position, but in view of the depression in the mining interest (which last year was put down as the chief cause of a loss of 300 members), it is scarcely expected that any increase will have taken place in that county.

Mr. L. Watts, of Regent's Park College, has accepted the unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Union Church, Godmanchester, and will commence his labours there on the first Sunday in July.

A BAPTIST UNION FOR SCOTLAND is in course of formation, and is expected to hold a meeting in the autumn.

CAMBRIDGE.—The scheme for building a new Congregational chapel at Cambridge has reached an advanced stage, and there is a good prospect of Congregationalism being worthily represented in its buildings, at least—in that University town.

The Rev. Joseph Perkins has been obliged, by continued feebleness of health, to resign the charge of the Baptist Church, Bridgwater.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.—The yearly meeting of the Society of Friends is now sitting in London. On Sunday, in addition to the usual meetings for worship in all the metropolitan meeting-houses, which were largely attended, ministers of the society from various parts of the United Kingdom and America held meetings for worship with the

public at the Burdett Hall, Limehouse, Friends' Meeting-house, Ratcliff, and Friends' Meeting-house, Peel-court, morning and evening; and Whitfield Church, Cabinet Theatre, Zion Chapel, St. Pancras, the Bedford Institute, and in New Inn-yard in the evening. All were well attended.

The Rev. L. H. BYRNES, who has now entered on his pastorate of Pembroke Chapel, Clifton, as successor to the late Rev. S. Luke, before leaving Kingston-on-Thames delivered a farewell address to a large gathering of the members of the Young Men's Christian Association. On that occasion the Vicar of Kingston (the Rev. A. Williams) said he was glad to be able to bear testimony to the worth of one who had filled for eighteen years a very important post in that important town; and he should be greatly lacking in his duty if he did not express his sorrow at the great loss the town would sustain by Mr. Byrnes' departure. On a subsequent day the members of the church and congregation bade Mr. Byrnes farewell at a meeting held in the schoolroom. The chairman (Mr. Cross) and others made statements showing that Mr. Byrnes was a zealous worker during his eighteen years' residence at Kingston. To his efforts, principally, the Congregationalists of that town are indebted for the handsome place of worship in which they now assemble. He also set on foot the erection of a chapel at Surbiton, and originated other movements of importance. The Rev. gentleman was presented with a silver card-basket by the female Bible-class; with a cake-basket and grape scissors by the male teachers of the Sunday-school; with an envelope-case and blotting-book by the youth's Bible-class; and, lastly, with a 100-guinea Broadwood pianoforte, bearing this inscription on a silver plate: "Presented to the Rev. L. H. Byrnes, B.A., as a farewell token of esteem and affection by the church and congregation assembling in Eden-street, Kingston-on-Thames, at the close of eighteen years' faithful ministry."

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—The fifty-fifth annual assembly of the Union was held at Rugeley on the 19th and 20th inst. The executive committee met on Monday evening to prepare the business of the assembly. On Tuesday morning a prayer-meeting was held in the schoolroom of the Congregational Chapel, at which the Rev. John Baker presided. The general assembly opened at half-past nine o'clock, in the chapel. The chairman for the year, S. S. Mander, Esq., of Wolverhampton, delivered an admirable address, which he consented should be published with the annual report of the Union. The Rev. Robert Ann, secretary, read the report, which stated that two churches—Brewood and Carmock—which before had received aid from the Union, had resolved to become self-supporting. The various grants were voted, and the ordinary business transacted, after which the members of the Union, and several ladies of the Rugeley congregation, dined together. In the evening a public service was held, at which the Rev. T. G. Horton preached, and the Rev. Robert Ann presided at the Lord's table.

The Rev. J. W. Parker, of New College, has accepted a hearty and unanimous invitation from the Congregational Church at Banbury, Oxon, to become their pastor, and will commence his ministry on the first Sabbath in July.

Anniversary Meetings.

COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Thursday, May 13, at the Weigh-house Chapel. The attendance was larger than on many previous occasions. The chair was occupied by the Rev. T. Binney. A hymn having been sung, the Rev. W. Cuthbertson, formerly of Sydney, engaged in prayer.

The CHAIRMAN said he had been requested by the committee to take the chair on this occasion as one of the founders of the society. It was interesting, after so many years, to throw his mind back upon the origin of this institution, but many painful memories mingled with that recollection—so very few remained who were his colleagues and associates in establishing this society. Some years ago some friends with whom he was acquainted were seeking through Parliament to originate a new colony in South Australia, and he was consulted on the question of sending out a minister with the first vessel of emigrants. They saw no objection to the minister going at that time in the capacity of protector of the aborigines, and receiving an allowance for his services in that capacity. He put advertisements in several papers in order to find such a man. There were several replies, but he did not judge that either was fully qualified for the office, and he believed the vessel sailed without a minister. Dr. Rigg and Dr. Matthews, who had been visiting in Canada, came home, and there sprung up a desire to send ministers to Canada. These two things coming together led to the establishment of the Colonial Missionary Society. One of the first ministers the society sent out was the Rev. Mr. Stowell, who was set apart to that office in this place of worship, and singularly, they had on the platform this evening his colleague and successor. With him also was the Chief Justice of South Australia, who was a member of one of the families belonging to Weigh-house Chapel, and who was one of the principal originators of the South Australian colony.

The Rev. A. HANNAY read the report, which stated that the practice of the society had been to help churches, colleges, and home missionary societies in

the colonies from small beginnings until they arrived at maturity. In some instances it had been found necessary to continue this help for a somewhat lengthened period, owing to the sparseness or the fluctuating nature of the population or other circumstances preventing the development of self-supporting institutions. As a rule, the colonists had not been slow to take upon themselves according to their ability the obligations of Congregational church life. The Congregational churches of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania, have not for several years received a single grant in aid of their pastoral or missionary work. In those colonies, after a lapse of thirty years, the number of Congregational churches was 119, and these were upon the whole in a healthy and vigorous state. Connected with these churches are many stations where the Gospel is periodically preached; there are two colleges, one at Melbourne and one at Sydney, for the training of ministers. It had been found that when a leading church was from any cause left without a pastor, a difficulty had been found in supplying his place from the colonial ministry; the committee had therefore resolved to make arrangements for sending out duly qualified ministers and placing them at the service of the several Home Missionary societies, for such missionary labour as the committees could provide until vacancies should occur which they might be called upon to fill. Special reference was made to the spiritual necessities of the Queensland Bush, and it was recommended that a special itinerating mission should carry the Gospel from station to station. Subsequent reference was made to the work carried on in New Zealand, Nova Scotia, and Canada.

The TREASURER (James Spicer, Esq.) read the financial statement, which showed a total income of 4,030*l.* 10s. 7d.; after deducting expenditure for the year there was a balance in hand of 754*l.* 4s. 8d.

The SECRETARY said a special fund had been opened for the Bush Mission object, to which the Congregational Union had contributed 200*l.*, and the Chairman had promised a donation of 10*l.*

The Rev. W. M. STATHAM moved, and the Rev. W. ROBERTS seconded, the adoption of the report.

The Rev. Mr. EVANS, of Adelaide, said there was no part of her Majesty's provinces where a fuller provision was made for religious teaching and preaching than in South Australia.

With a population of 180,000, our churches, chapels, and rooms used for public worship, will afford accommodation at once for 110,000, more than equal to every man, woman, and child above fourteen years of age. (Cheers.) We have 4,000 Sunday-school teachers, and the number of children is equal to one-seventh of the entire population of the colony. This is only material as it is indicative of spiritual life; it has grown out of something good, and I believe the results are in correspondence to the amount of agency. I am prepared to maintain that South Australia, with respect to religious life and morality, will bear favourable comparison with any part of the world. (Cheers.) You will bear in mind that all this provision for the spiritual wants of the people has been made by free-will offerings. (Cheers.) We have received no State grants to help or hinder us, while other colonies have been receiving thousands, and we can challenge any of those colonies to comparison with respect to religious agencies and results. That comparison was made by an able writer in Victoria, and it was greatly to the disadvantage of the richer colonies. Bishop Short, sir—you will remember Bishop Short—when speaking at a conference of bishops at Sydney, said, "All this has been done by the despised voluntary principle." (Cheers.) That principle is not despised in our country. We occupy an elevation from which we can look down upon the ecclesiastical struggles going on here, and can afford to smile at some of the arguments used in the controversy. Prizing our own liberty, equality, and fraternity, we cannot but believe that the people of England will learn that the religion of Christ may be trusted and most wisely left to the loving will of His friends. (Cheers.)

DAVIS HANSON, Esq., Chief Justice of South Australia, said that the help afforded by the Colonial Missionary Society in times gone by had been the means, more than anything else, of enabling South Australia to take a higher position as to the extent and efficacy of the means of religious instruction than any colony in the Australian group. The state of things in the Queensland bush was exceptional. Along the northern part station after station has been formed; there were hundreds of miles where there was no recognised centre, no settled society, and no place where there were enough people together to form the nucleus of a settlement. Consequently this isolated population fell into habits irregular, irreligious, vicious, and sometimes degraded—evils with which the Colonial Missionary Society was specially adapted to contend. But such communities did not represent the general character of colonial society, nor were the persons who lived there anything like samples of the persons of whom our colonists are principally composed. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. A. RALEIGH, D.D., proposed the second resolution:—

That this meeting regards with satisfaction and thankfulness the work which the Colonial Missionary Society has been honoured to accomplish in the colonies; that it heartily approves of the steps which have been taken, and which are contemplated, for acting through the Home Missionary Societies and Congregational Unions of the several colonies, in providing an efficient ministry for small townships and thinly-peopled districts; and that it has learnt with peculiar complacency of the proposal to provide an itinerating agency for the bush of Queensland and similar districts.

Missionary societies just now, he said, are put upon their trial. In a daily paper of that morning was a letter from a Jewish fellow-citizen, who, in reference to the societies for the conversion of the Jews, gave utterance, in a tone of resentment, to the same feeling expressed by the Duke of Somerset on the part of the Chinese—"What right have they to care for us?" not considering that if they held a faith which

they believe to be true they ought to try and convert us to it, and if we hold a faith which we believe to be true we ought to try to convert him and everybody else. He did not intend to refer further to that extremely intolerant and foolish speech of the Duke of Somerset, which had been sufficiently answered; but the most serious part of the matter was that there was a certain tone in the public press in favour of a doctrine of toleration, which was nothing but a doctrine of detestable indifference as to what may be ultimately true, as though the perfection of civilisation was that all should believe just what they happened to believe. He was not sorry that their societies were thus brought to book, for one of the most insidious and yet most deadly influences to any society with a grip of truth was that it should be allowed to go on without question, and get into the habit of doing things and even declaring the Gospel in a formal manner. Thus challenged, we have to consider how much we believe, and how much we believe what we do believe, and how much we shall be prepared to sacrifice, and how much to do in spreading that belief. The outcome of all this would be in a little while greatly for the furtherance of the Gospel. The objections to the Colonial Missionary Society came rather from the other side, and they were to the effect that there was very little use for such a society, and that as soon as the colonists are numerous enough and strong enough, they ought to be allowed to provide Gospel instruction for themselves. He was very glad that it had come out so clearly that this was the spirit of the society itself—that its committee contemplated that so soon as the society has dug its own grave—which every good institution does—it should be fairly and honourably buried. He was afraid, however, that none of those present at that meeting must expect to be at the funeral, for it seemed likely to be needed for many years yet.

F. ALLPORT, Esq., having seconded the resolution, the secretary announced a donation of 50*l.* from Mr. Spicer to the Bush fund. (Cheers.)

A vote of thanks was presented to the chairman, and the meeting was concluded with the benediction.

THE ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY.

The anniversaries of this society, of late years, have been growing in interest and influence. The meeting on Wednesday evening last, at the London Tavern, was more numerously attended than former gatherings, and the information imparted was of an important character. Mr. Thomas Hughes presided; supported by the Secretary, Mr. F. W. Chasson, Mr. R. N. Fowler, M.P., the Rev. M. Casalis (secretary of the French Missionary Society), Dr. Sandwith (Kars), the Rev. F. Dumas (missionary from Basutoland), Messrs. A. K. Isbister, M. D. Conway, Cowell Steppen, R. Alsop, F. E. Fox, John Mayfield, William Craft, George Sturge, A. L. Fox, Eikanah Beard, &c.

Mr. F. W. Chasson read the annual report, which entered at considerable length into the proceedings of the society during the past year, especially with reference to slavery in the Transvaal Republic, where Kaffir children, who are captured by the Boers in their marauding expeditions, are used as domestic slaves, and figure in the Dutch traders' books as "black ivory," or as "ivory tusks." The society would continue to prosecute its labours in this matter until the practice of kidnapping had entirely ceased, and the Boers had been compelled to liberate the natives whom they now hold as slaves. The conduct of the Governor of the Cape in ceding to the Boers the most fertile valleys of Basutoland—although he had declared that if the natives were cooped up in their mountains they could not possibly exist—was severely criticised. The society had memorialised the late Prime Minister and the present Colonial Minister in favour of making provision for the settlement of the Indian tribes of the Hudson's Bay territories on ample reserves. With reference to the Queensland traffic in Pacific islanders, the report said:—"If to kidnap human beings be a form of the slave-trade, then is that trade practised in the South Seas. If to sell human beings at so much a piece to planters and squatters, and to coerce them into the performance of their daily labour, be to treat them as slaves, then slavery has a local habitation in Queensland."

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said he would venture to make a few remarks on the position and objects of the society. He thought that every one must be glad to take however humble a part in its work. It appeared to him to be an eminently national and important one. As colonists and as rulers we were brought into connection with races of all the families known in the world, and our duty towards these races, which we were in the habit of calling inferior, became more and more important as years rolled on. (Hear, hear.) He did not for a moment mean to say that the general temper of the nation was not good. He believed that the English nation was anxious to do right and justice to those nations with which they were thrown into contact. At the same time no Englishman who had studied the public doings of his nation and the rulers of his nation, in regard to many of these races during the last twenty or thirty years, would deny that there was a strong and cruel element in the English nation which required to be carefully watched, in order that it might not be brought out when it came into contact with many of these races, and deeds committed which would bring a stain upon the English name, or upon the name of any nation. They had only to remember the terrible deeds connected with the Indian mutiny and the rebellion in Jamaica to prove that the most careful watch should be kept when they came in contact with so-called inferior peoples. The society in whose interests they met aimed to keep the national conscience alive with respect to them. The

report which had just been read in their hearing referred to what was going on in Queensland. Trade there had greatly increased, and in consequence of the great development of the trade in sugar, cotton, and other things, there had been a demand for labour, and the colony had passed laws to legalise the importation of inhabitants from the Pacific Islands. Great caution was therefore necessary, or the slave-trade might again be introduced. The next point referred to in the report was New Zealand. It would be their duty to urge the Government to take care that nothing like injustice or confiscation should be permitted in respect to land. With regard to India, it was the great problem which England had to solve. There must be no jealousy on the part of Englishmen in seeing the great men of India rising as soldiers and lawyers, or in any other capacity. It was not the duty of England to hold India except on these terms. If they could hold it by the consent of the inhabitants, then it would be well to hold it; but no one who looked at those questions with a broad and a Christian view would wish to put his fellow-subjects under any disadvantage. (Cheers.) He was rejoiced that the present President of the United States, the great general who made a worldwide name in what he might call the war of independence which had so lately terminated, had gone back to the old English policy with regard to the Indians, and had selected the men who were most likely to treat this question as it should be treated by Christian men—he referred to the selection of members of the Society of Friends. (Hear, hear.) That Society had come forward, not for the twentieth or the hundredth time, and had offered voluntarily to send its members, under the terrible circumstances which existed on the borders of the far Western States, and to settle—as William Penn had settled 150 years ago—the Indian question for the nation of the United States. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he urged upon all present not to relax their efforts. However willing the Government might be to do what was right by these races, they would not be able to do so unless backed by public opinion, and kept to it by the work of such a society as that in whose interests they were met. They should not rest until they had made it certain that in any portion of the world where the British flag floated, colour should make no difference between our fellow-citizens. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. CONWAY (Virginia) seconded the adoption of the report. He said it was most important that all humane men should be made acquainted with any cruelties which were inflicted upon those who were called the inferior races. These nations might be said to have become the heritage and the pupils of the Anglo-Saxon people, and therefore their wrongs and sufferings should not be matters of indifference. England and America were certainly destined to influence not only the coloured race, but the great Mongolian family. The English in their treatment of the black—he wished he could say the same of the treatment of the yellow—had set a good example to his countrymen. There was no doubt that English example had contributed to the abolition of slavery in the United States, and he trusted that that example would be yet more powerful for good. There ought however, to be no relaxation of effort on the part of that society; it had still its work to do. (Hear, hear.) In the United States at the present time there was a tendency among the Indians to divide into two bands. One party was showing signs of civilisation. In Mexico and the old Aztec regions might be found the dawn of an old civilisation. They had their farms, and they grew beautiful wines; they tilled the soil, worked well, and were perfectly harmless; they had no schools, it was true, but they were good farmers and tradesmen. Their destiny perhaps was to pass away, but if so, let their passing away be met with generosity. (Hear, hear.) He thought the example of England in protecting the grants of land in the case of Hudson's Bay would be of great advantage to the United States in regard to Alaska. They were entering upon a very inconsiderate course. Alaska had been purchased from Russia as a bit of mere Cabinet egotism; but the obtaining of that territory had given them the key to a vast number of tribes who were unknown to the geographer. It was good to hear of her Majesty in America protecting the weak. (Cheers.) He should never forget how many poor negroes had run from his own flag to seek justice under that of England, and he trusted that flag would ever be found floating so long as it waved in defence of the weak. He hoped the time would come when they would be deemed worthy of as much care and protection as hares and pheasants. (Cheers.)

Mr. R. N. FOWLER, M.P., moved the second resolution:—

That this meeting regards with alarm and indignation the practice of slavery by the Dutch Boers of the Transvaal Republic, and expresses its earnest sympathy with the efforts made by the Legislative Council of Natal and by the Aborigines Protection Society to awaken public attention to the enormities which are being perpetrated in that country. That the Boers of the Orange Free State, in the wars they have waged against the Basutos, and in their attempts to destroy the French Protestant Mission, have been instigated by a cruel rapacity which has justly excited the reprobation of our fellow subjects in South Africa. That the convention recently entered into with the Boers by Sir Philip Wodehouse, the Governor of the Cape Colony, in the teeth of his own promises to the natives, deprives the Basutos of extensive tracts of fertile territory, which, to quote his Excellency's own words, are essential to their very existence, and which cannot be ceded to the Boers without the certainty of future warfare and bloodshed. Lastly, that the chairman be requested, in forwarding a copy of this resolution to Earl Granville, her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to respectfully appeal to his lordship to withhold his sanction from the treaty until further investigation has been made into its provisions.

He said, when he spoke of the Boers, he did not wish to give the impression that they were peculiarly

dissolute men. They had many virtues, such as those belonging to certain fanatical races. In their domestic circle they were well-conducted men; but they were possessed by a bloodthirsty spirit, like that of which we read as characteristic of certain races described in the Old Testament, and of the same kind as that described by Sir Walter Scott in his "Old Mortality." The resolution spoke of the Basutos, and here he could not help saying that Mosheesh was one of the greatest and most talented of chiefs with whom England ever had to do. But what had been the course pursued by the Boers towards the Basutos and Mosheesh? They had tried to get their country; they had engaged in every species of persecution. The Basutos had been privileged to have amongst them some French Protestant missionaries, and their labours had been greatly successful. These, however, had been expelled. He hoped they would all feel that they owed a solemn duty—that England owed a duty to those who had placed themselves under the dominion of our Queen. (Cheers.) The intentions of the English people might be in favour of justice towards them; but the large proportion, even of educated people—nine out of ten—never heard of Basutos or Boers. It was their duty to acquaint themselves with this question. If these native races placed themselves under the dominion of England, as the Basutos had done, it was for English people to see that they were treated with justice and humanity. (Cheers.)

M. EUGENE CASALIS, in seconding the resolution, entered upon an interesting sketch of the character, habits, and pursuits of the Basutos, amongst whom his lot had been cast for fifteen years. In the year 1833, in company with two French brethren, he went out to their country. He was agreeably disappointed in its physical geography. A map that he had consulted before going out marked it out as a desert of sand; but the fact was that it was the most hilly and mountainous country in South Africa, watered by the Orange and other rivers which have their rise in these mountains. When they arrived the poor Basutos had great difficulty in believing that they were human beings like themselves, and many times he had been begged to pull off his cap that they might pass their fingers through his hair, and to take off his shoes that they might examine his toes. (Laughter.) It was only by this means that the missionaries could prove that they, too, were men. The first thing the missionaries ascertained was that these people were living on their own land. The tombs of their forefathers were around them; the country was not only theirs by birth, but by valour. They had defended it, and in many places the ground was strewn with human bones, giving evidence of the conflict between the Basutos and Matabele. Mosheesh, their chief, was a man of peace. He said to the missionaries, "If you bring peace you are my men. I have sought everywhere for it. I have asked foreigners and travellers to whom must I apply to find peace for my country. If you bring it you are welcome." (Cheers.) Mosheesh had abolished cannibalism. It was entirely done away with, and that without resorting to any cruel means—without shedding the blood of one man—only by his moral influence. When peace had been restored between his people and the Matabele, those who had relations who had been the victims of these cannibals wanted revenge. Mosheesh said, "No; cannibalism is at an end; there is peace. These men fight with the tombs; let them alone." That was enough. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the moral and intellectual condition of the people, they were very ignorant. They did not know God, and they had no relation to civilisation. They had been separated from the rest of mankind for thousands of years; but something struck the missionaries in the character of these people, notwithstanding their depravity and gross ignorance. Their conscience had preserved its rectitude. Conscience was speaking in the name of God, and telling them what was good and what was bad. The notion of duty was still written in their hearts by the hand of the Almighty. From the first, as soon as the missionaries had learned the language, they read to the people the ten commandments; but the Basutos answered, "We knew these before you came. We did not know Him whom you call Jehovah, or His law; but we knew that we ought to honour father and mother"; and, indeed, they were acquainted with all the commandments of the second table. And it was quite true that, when the seventh commandment was read, they implored the missionaries not to read it; they could not bear it. "If you must," they said, "read it, cover it in some way; use a metaphor, but do not say the thing in its reality as you do." This greatly encouraged the missionaries. They began schools, and the natives attended religious services, and listened to the preaching of the Gospel just like people in England. After some years the work had proceeded so successfully that they could number many churches, and they could number those who could read by thousands. But there was another kind of success which would perhaps strike the general philanthropist more than anything which had been mentioned: viz., the improvement of the people in agriculture. They had a beautiful country and fertile, because of the regular rains, while the Cape Colony was dry, and needed irrigation. In the Basuto country they may cultivate anywhere. They had no knowledge of drainage, and, on account of the sloping character of the country, they did not need it. What they did, they did with great zest. They planted wheat, barley, oats, fruit-trees, and they had adopted all these new means of subsistence. He (the speaker) had brought the first horse into the country; but since then an English trader took some to Mosheesh, and now they possessed thousands. Thus they had been improving. But this peaceful state of things was not to last. It

was three years now since the Boer had entered the land, and since the missionaries had been expelled. Their stations were ruined, and every passer-by took whatever he thought proper. These stations were the work of more than twenty years; the fruit of great labour and expenditure. When inquiry was made about these acts of injustice and spoliation, it was found that the Basutos were blameless. Nevertheless, they had not been permitted to return to their work, and thousands of native Christians who had sacrificed all things for Christianity had been deprived of Gospel privileges. If such a monstrosity as that had been committed nearer home, would not the world have rung with it? (Hear, hear.) But because it was done against the blacks it was not less monstrous and cruel. In conclusion, M. Casalis asked his audience to strive against the prejudices of apathy and ignorance, and to acquaint themselves with the history of the Basutos' sufferings. Let them ask why they were to be expelled from their homes and lands. Little was known in England of all that they had endured, and he trusted that the present meeting would tend to enlighten many who, as the preceding speaker had said, had never heard of the Boers or the Basutos. (Cheers.)

The Rev. FRANCIS DAUMAS, in supporting the resolution, dwelt upon the fact that in this great city there were those who thought of the oppressed and the despised; that there were those who could take an interest in men whom they had never seen; and remarked that the Basutos deserved to be well treated, on account of the many good traits in their character. In most of the other tribes the women did the labour of the fields, but in that tribe it was done by both men and women, who worked together. It had been said that they were a nation of thieves, but that was no more true of them than of other countries, in all of which were to be found some who were dishonest. He had known many instances where lost property had been voluntarily restored, and in one case after it had been overlooked for eighteen months; and when stealing did begin, it was commenced by the white men, and even then, when a fine had been inflicted upon the thief, it was subscribed for by the native's friends. He deplored that they had to abandon their stations, which had been erected with their own hands and from bricks made by himself and the natives, and trusted the British Government would do all they could to improve the existing state of things. (Cheers.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Dr. SANDWITH (of Kars) moved the third resolution: That this meeting protests against the so-called immigration of Pacific Islanders to Queensland as a species of slave trade which has been attended with the gravest abuses, and which is preparing the way for the introduction of slavery into a British colony.

He remarked that he had travelled a great deal, and had seen the effect of bad administration in regard to emigration. When carried on in the right way, with proper management, it was likely to be useful, but could not be so as it had been carried out with respect to Queensland, for when the emigrants arrived there they could not be properly looked after. He could bear witness to the virtues of the Basutos, for he had mixed with tribes of the very same character. (Cheers.)

Mr. CRAFT, in seconding the resolution, said he felt that something ought to be done to put a stop to the system of emigration that was adopted for Queensland. He was delighted to find that the society had taken the subject up, and hoped the press would make the subject fully known, and then he was sure it would be put a stop to.

Mr. CHAMSON moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. LISTER, and unanimously adopted.

UNITED KINGDOM BAND OF HOPE UNION.

The anniversary of this society, of which Mr. Morley, M.P., is president, was held on Wednesday. In the morning and afternoon there was a conference at the Lecture-hall of the Sunday School Union, Old Bailey; Mr. W. West in the chair. The report, which was read by the secretary (the Rev. G. W. M'Cree), stated that with an income of less than 700*l.*, derived from annual subscriptions, the union had been enabled to employ six agents, who had been incessantly engaged in lecturing and addressing public meetings. For the temperance prize tales 150*l.* had been given; 1,300 public meetings had been attended by honorary deputations; 116,000 copies of the society's publications had been sold or gratuitously distributed; and 250 lectures had been given, with illustrations by means of dissolving views—a mode of promoting the objects of the union which had been found highly useful.

Mr. SAUNDERS moved, and the Rev. Dr. BURNS seconded, the following resolution:—

That in the opinion of this conference the Band of Hope movement is essential to the rapid spread and permanent stability of temperance organizations. That the increasing temptations presented to the young, both in rural and civic communities, render it highly desirable that the movement should spread throughout the whole land; and, therefore, this conference rejoices in the vigorous operations of the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union, and trusts that the labours of its agents, the usefulness of its publications, the attractiveness of its dissolving views, and the sufficiency of its funds, may continue, to enable its friends and supporters to anticipate even enlarged success.

He moved to insert the words, "by the Wine License Act," but his proposal was not accepted; and after some further conversation the resolution was agreed to as it stood.

The Rev. JOHN KERN moved, and Dr. EDWARDS seconded—

That in the opinion of this conference it is highly expedient that the principles of the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union should be introduced into Sunday, day, and ragged schools. That scientific lectures, suitable books for presentation to school libraries, conferences of Christian workers, special sermons, Bands of Hope in the army, and great gatherings of children, should therefore be multiplied as far as possible; and this conference pledges itself to assist the union

in the development and practical application of any wisely-considered plans for the speedy accomplishment of these important objects.

In the discussion which followed it was stated that it was intended to get up a bazaar in aid of the society's funds, and also to start a literary organ. The motion was agreed to.

The Rev. G. M. MURPHY moved, and Mr. NICHOLS seconded, the following resolution, which was received with loud cheers and unanimously adopted:—

That this conference having been made aware of the intention of the First Commissioner of Works to provide a place for the sale of intoxicating liquors in Victoria Park, most emphatically protests against an arrangement calculated to injure and demoralise a portion of the visitors to that interesting resort of the people, and especially to place dangerous and unnecessary temptations in the way of thousands of youthful visitors.

After lunch the Rev. Dr. BURNS took the chair, and in his opening remarks he stated that during his recent travels in Palestine he had never seen an instance of drunkenness except amongst Europeans. It seemed to him idle to expect that the Mahometans would ever be converted to Christianity till Christian nations had put away from them the reproach of their drinking customs. The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted:—

That this conference views with great satisfaction the multiplication of Band of Hope organisations in the provinces, in the British colonies, and in foreign lands; and desires to express its hearty sympathy with all faithful men and women who have devoted themselves to guarding the young from the seductive influences of intoxicating drinks.

That this conference is firmly convinced that the closing of public-houses on the Sunday would greatly promote the purity of domestic life and the religious culture of children, and would consequently tend to secure the future welfare and greatness of the British people.

In the evening there was a large gathering of the children and their friends at Exeter Hall, which they completely filled. The chair was occupied by Mr. Lucas-Shadwell, and amongst those present, and several of whom addressed the meeting, were Mr. C. Reed, M.P., the Rev. Newman Hall, the Rev. J. Fleming, the Rev. J. Towers, and Mr. H. Varley. The most interesting portion of the proceedings, however, was a selection of hymns and other vocal pieces, which were sung by a choir of 500 members of Bands of Hope. Nothing could be more pleasant than the appearance which these little ones presented. Another matter that called for special mention was the admirable manner in which they had been trained, apparently upon the tonic sol-fa system. The accuracy, spirit, and docility with which they responded to the baton of the conductor, Mr. Frederick Smith, were admirable. The proceedings closed with three thrilling cheers for each of the great total organisations and the usual complimentary votes.

SEAMEN'S CHRISTIAN FRIEND SOCIETY.

The twenty-third annual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday evening, the 11th inst., at the institution, St. George-street, E. Lieut.-Col. H. J. Brockman, V.P., presided, and among those present were the Revs. W. Leask, D.D., E. Davies, T. B. Barker, Philip Dickerson, G. M. Butler, G. J. Hill, J. H. L. Christian, Captain Handiside, R.A., George Cruikshank, Esq., S. N. Giessing, Esq., J. Simpson, and H. Duckley, Esq. Letters were read from the Rev. R. W. Dibdin, M.A., and Judge Payne, expressing their great esteem for the society and their regret at being unable to attend the meeting.

After prayer by the Rev. P. Dickerson, and an interesting address from the chairman, the secretary (the Rev. G. J. Hill) read an abstract of the report, from which it appeared that the society was prospering.

Much good had been accomplished, and the society's operations and its income were both in advance of former years. The society's institution in Ratcliff-highway comprises a seaman's chapel, reading-room, and library, conversational room, Bible depot, and free schools for sailors' children, all of which had been well attended. The society also sustains missionaries to labour among the seamen in the ports of London, Liverpool, and on the South Coast, and during the year its agents had held 975 Bethel and other meetings on board ships afloat, and places of worship on shore, and these services had been attended by nearly 22,000 seamen. 5,404 visits had been paid to ships, sailors' homes, and English and foreign lodging-houses. Some thousands of conversations had been held, and 228,170 books, Bibles, gospels, tracts, and periodicals had been circulated in eighteen languages. 1,017*l.* 8s. 10d. income; expenses, less receipts, 18*l.* The adoption of the report was ably moved by the Rev. W. Leask, D.D., who said that he was pleased to be able to show by his presence his earnest sympathy with this valuable society. He was glad to find that the report gave such cheering results. The report was not only theoretically correct, but practically excellent. He could retire from the meeting perfectly satisfied, for after hearing such a report, if the meeting now closed, it would not have met in vain. This society seemed to meet the wants of the sailor in every respect, and he earnestly prayed that God would crown all the labours of its missionaries with abundant success.

The Rev. E. Davies, in seconding the resolution, said that to all which Dr. Leask had said in reference to the report, the society, and its work, he could cordially say ditto! In the course of a very telling address, Mr. Davies very eloquently reviewed the various privations and dangers of the sailor, and concluded by saying that he considered the wants of the sailor were admirably met by the various agencies of this society. It offered the mariner social enjoyment, furnished his mind with religious truth, and tended the education of his offspring. The resolution was carried unanimously. Other earnest addresses were delivered on the

society's behalf, and the proceedings were closed with prayer.

ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE FOR INFANTS.—The annual meeting of this institution took place on Friday at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street; Mr. C. J. Leaf in the chair. The balance-sheet for the past year gives the amount for receipts as 1,215*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, exclusive of 4,105*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* contributed for the new buildings. The expenses amounted to 11,225*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, and the balance carried forward to the credit of the present year was 137*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* The number of infants under the management of the committee at the present time is eighty-eight, and after the present election there will be 100 under the care of the charity. The report gives in full the very satisfactory account of the education examiner, and states that the new buildings at Hornsey-ridge were occupied in February last. The gifts for these buildings amount to upwards of 5,000*l.*, and an additional contribution of 1,000*l.* has been made by one gentleman, who also promises 500*l.* extra if the sum of 5,000*l.* can be raised during the present year. The committee make an urgent appeal for subscriptions, as several portions of the work remain to be erected. The report was unanimously adopted, and after several formal resolutions were passed, the meeting proceeded to the election of candidates for vacancies. It is arranged that the bazaar for this year shall be held on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th of June, in one of the arcades of the Royal Horticultural Gardens at South Kensington. In order to meet the payments required by the builders the committee have been obliged to borrow the sum of 6,000*l.*, and it is estimated that the liabilities beyond that at the present time amount to about 4,000*l.*

THE EVANGELICAL CONTINENTAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the friends of this society was held on Thursday evening, in the lower Exeter Hall. Mr. E. Pye Smith, who occupied the chair, in opening the proceedings, drew attention to the fact that the society, which had been established twenty years, had for its object the diffusion of Christian knowledge on the continent. He said that it was a matter of much thankfulness that the funds of the society had not decreased; yet, considering the great wealth of the country, a greater effort ought, in his opinion, to be made to spread the Gospel on the continent, for it should be remembered that there were many parts in a most degraded state, which rendered it necessary that increased assistance should be given to this society. The secretary, Mr. Sheddock, read the report, which referred at some length to the past operations of the society, and the new field of labour which had recently been opened up by it, and stated that, notwithstanding the greatly increased work which it was now doing in Italy, Spain, and Bohemia, there had been a very slight increase in its funds, and the committee consequently urgently appealed for increased support. The total receipts for the year amounted to 2,769*l.*, and the expenditure to 2,658*l.*, leaving a balance of 111*l.* to meet outstanding liabilities. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. R. Ashton, the Rev. J. P. Tiddy, M. Vernier (Geneva), M. S. Monod (Paris), M. Anet (Brussels), and M. Nicolet, and resolutions were passed adopting the report, approving of the objects of the society, and pledging the meeting to accord to it increased support.

PROPOSED CLASSES FOR LAY PREACHERS.

A meeting was held last evening in Finsbury Chapel, under the presidency of Robert Baxter, Esq., for the purpose of forming classes for the elementary training of lay preachers. This subject was first brought forward at a meeting in January last, when a body of lay preachers assembled in Finsbury Chapel, and were decidedly in favour of establishing classes for the improvement and training lay preachers.

The Rev. CHARLES GILBERT, secretary *pro tem.*, read the report. The committee of the Christian Instruction Society having ascertained that there were a large number of lay preachers actively engaged in the metropolis, and that these required some amount of elementary training, thought that it was quite consistent with the objects of that institution to institute such a course of training; and, accordingly, a meeting was convened on the 12th of January last, on which occasion Josias Alexander, Esq., presided. A paper was read on the subject of the meeting, and then a conference took place, many expressing their earnest desire to see the classes established. A sub-committee of lay preachers was therefore appointed to take the subject into consideration, and to report the result. The sub-committee met three times, and after much deliberation, resolutions were adopted to give a practical character to the movement. Several gentlemen, among whom were Mr. Baxter, Dr. Gladstone, Rev. J. Gritton, &c., then formed themselves into a committee, and having taken the subject into repeated and careful consideration, adopted the following resolutions:—

First: That it is most desirable that classes should be formed for the improvement of lay preachers; for while some greatly require elementary knowledge, even those who have a first-class education would in all probability derive considerable benefit from a frequent consideration of the subjects to which they are devoted.

Second: The committee feel that these classes should not aim to assume a collegiate character; but should seek simply to afford instruction to lay preachers on the following subjects:—

I. The best method of public speaking
II. The style and structure of a discourse.

III. To communicate a system of theology derived from the Scriptures. Under these heads they propose to aid their brethren in the proper arrangement of their discourse, and to express their thoughts in a plain manly style.

Finally, the committee propose practical hints on the spirit, conduct, temptations, and trials of the lay preacher. They

suggest this with a view to impart a correct understanding of the nature and importance of their work, as well as to afford them encouragement.

The committee think that if this outline of study be pursued by lay preachers in a right spirit, it will tend greatly to fit them for their deeply-interesting labours, without interfering in too great a measure with those secular duties to which Providence has also called them. The committee have unanimously resolved that each individual, on becoming a member of the class, is to provide a testimonial of character and adaptation to the work; and they think that in requiring such a testimonial they shall have the concurrence of all right-principled lay preachers. They feel that only Christian men are suitable to discharge the duties of the work; and therefore none but such men should be admitted to the proposed classes. It is proposed in the first instance to establish a central class, and for this purpose the Evangelisation Society has generously granted the use of their spacious rooms at 18, Buckingham-street, Strand, free of expense. To elicit the sympathy of lay preachers, the committee have addressed circulars to 598 lay preachers, inviting their co-operation in this work. The replies were of a most satisfactory character. As soon as all preliminary arrangements are completed, the committee hope to be able to announce the course for the summer quarter. It must be understood that in order to be teachers of others on the great subject of religion, we must first become scholars ourselves. While the committee limit these classes to Christian men, they are but following the direction given by Paul to Timothy, "The same commit thou to faithful men." Their object is to train members in the great principles of apostolic Christianity. In conclusion, the committee felt their work to be of the greatest importance, and they are ready to say, Who is sufficient for these things? But with the earnest co-operation of lay preachers, the prayers of the Church, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit, they will not despair of success.

The Rev. J. GARRON then addressed the meeting on the "Best method of public speaking." He thought there were those among the audience better qualified than himself to undertake the task, but with God's help he would perform his task satisfactorily. It was first necessary to have a perfect knowledge of the truth they were about to impart to others. And then they must fix the attention. They must awaken an interest in the minds of their hearers. We live in an intellectual age. We have not so much as formerly to fight against dull ignorance. We must therefore use something striking in our discourse, something that will awaken thought. We must also seek to touch the heart. Unless we do this, our labour will be lost. We must not seek merely to touch the intellect, because the affection of the heart were of far greater consequence. Our addresses must be suggestive; they must possess the seeds of thought, that our hearers may be the more influenced by them. We must manifest deep feeling in speaking of the concerns of eternity. This was an important matter. A preacher ought to go to his work with a full mind—full of the subject to be preached to immortal and imperishable beings. There should be preparation. We should use all the means at our disposal, for the purpose of dealing with some justice the subjects we propose to handle. If we are to attain the objects of preaching, we must have great plainness of speech. We must carefully avoid bombast. The better our education the less liability will there be to this fault. He was opposed to parabolic teaching; but believed it was good to treasure up anecdotes. The speaker was warmly applauded for his address.

The CHAIRMAN then called on Professor Lorimer to give an address on "Scriptural Theology." He believed that lay preaching was a necessity in the present day. Our church was very conservative—they disliked innovations; but as times changed it became necessary for us to alter our systems. Those who intend to be preachers must be schooled and trained until they attain that measure of ability sufficient to preach the word of God. He would urge them to have a theology of a thoroughly Scriptural character. Their preaching must be Scriptural in its matter as well as in spirit; and concluded an able address by dwelling on the importance of Scriptural knowledge.

A hymn was then sung, when a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

THE PRIVILEGE OF FREE SPEECH.—The *White Pine Inland Empire* narrates the following incident:—"Two men were talking at the corner of Hunter and Main-streets yesterday afternoon, in a not over friendly manner, when one of them remarked, 'I guess a man has the privilege of free speech in this country, don't he?' The other quietly drew a six-shooter, and replied, 'Yes, but what do you wish to say?' The other, observing the weapon, answered, 'Oh, nothing,' and walked off."—*Chicago Tribune*.

ORIENTAL DISCOVERIES.—Mr. E. Deutsch has returned to London from his Eastern journey, not only richer, generally, in knowledge of Semitic countries, but with curious additions to the special knowledge of scholars in Semitic antiquities. Mr. Deutsch has deciphered the inscriptions on the "great stones" of the Temple platform, and finds them to be Phoenician masons' marks. Thus we have an end of all doubts as to the original builders of that side of the Temple wall. They were of the age of Solomon, and probably the craftsmen of Hiram, King of Tyre. Mr. Deutsch has also recovered the lost letters of the Maccabean Hebrew alphabet. Two such "finds" rarely fall to the lot of a single traveller. It is understood that Mr. Deutsch will report on his discoveries to the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

—*Athenaeum*.

THE LATE BRADFORD ELECTION.

MR. MIALL'S RECEPTION.

On Wednesday night the first of the celebrations which it was arranged to hold last week and this in connection with the election of Messrs. Forster and Miall as members for the borough of Bradford, took place in the form of a "reception" to Mr. Miall, in St. George's Hall; Mr. Forster being at Leeds in the capacity of chairman of the annual meeting of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes. There was an immense audience, the hall being crowded, while its capacity was largely increased through the seats being taken out of the area. The orchestra was fully occupied by active supporters of the hon. members. Mr. R. Kell presided, and was supported on the platform by Mr. Miall, Mr. A. Holden, Alderman Brown, Alderman Law, the Rev. J. G. Miall, Mr. G. S. Beaumont, Mr. A. Illingworth, M.P., Councillor Drummond, Mr. E. Thomas, Mr. H. Illingworth, Councillor Read, Councillor Turner, Mr. C. Stead, Mr. J. H. Wade, Councillor Salt, Alderman Cole, Mr. F. Priestman, Mr. J. Priestman, Mr. James Hanson, Mr. W. Cannan, Councillor Boothroyd, Mr. B. Wainwright, Mr. D. J. Crebbin, Mr. A. Shepherd, Mr. A. Sunderland, Mr. R. Taylor, Mr. R. Newbould, Mr. R. Goddard, Mr. W. S. Nichols, Councillor Lund, Mr. W. G. Lord, Mr. T. Molloy, Mr. B. Hardaker, and others. The entrance of the chairman, Mr. Miall, and others, was greeted with a perfect tempest of cheering, prolonged for some time.

The CHAIRMAN who, on rising, was loudly cheered, made a few remarks on the cause that had brought them together. Mr. Miall, as they were aware, was not in Bradford either at the nomination, at the election, or at the declaration of the poll, and the Bradford constituency had done itself the honour of returning him without asking. (Cheers.) Mr. Miall, very early after the election, was very anxious to appear before his constituents, but it was deemed prudent to delay his coming owing to some unpleasantness of feeling which then prevailed. He (Mr. Kell) thought that the constitutional decision of the borough recommended itself to the whole body of electors, though he was sorry to think that there were still individuals who felt sore and angry. (Hear, hear.) After alluding to a mischievous report that had been circulated respecting Mr. Miall's action in regard to the Ten Hours Bill, which Mr. Miall would, no doubt, satisfactorily answer, the Chairman concluded by introducing

Mr. ANGUS HOLDEN, who proposed the following resolution:—

That this meeting, in the name of the Liberal party of Bradford, desire to express its heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Miall on his having been returned as one of the members for the borough, having the fullest confidence in his ability and integrity as a representative of great Liberal principles in the Imperial Parliament.

Actions, he observed, spoke louder than words, and it was because of Mr. Miall's fearless advocacy of Liberal principles in the past that they had conferred an honour upon him, and in doing that they had done honour to themselves. (Cheers.)

Mr. E. THOMAS, in seconding the resolution, said that it had been charged on Mr. Miall, time after time, by those who opposed him that he understood only one question. (Laughter.) Now what he (Mr. Thomas) wished most of all was that the gentleman making that charge would be prepared to come forward and measure swords with Mr. Miall on any of those subjects which he didn't understand. (Great laughter and cheering.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and greeted, not only with tremendous and prolonged cheering, but with waving of hats, caps, and handkerchiefs, and similar demonstrations. When the contrary was put, not a hand was held up, and the chairman declared the resolution unanimously carried.

Mr. Miall next rose, and was received with a tremendous outburst of cheering, again and again repeated. When the demonstration had subsided, Mr. MIALL said—

Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen,—I come here to thank you for having taken me on trust. (Loud cheers.) There are few representatives in the House of Commons who have been so signal honour as I have been by the constituency of Bradford. (Renewed cheers.) I have burned with the desire to come before you to tender you my heartfelt thanks; and I come now full of respect and of gratitude, that I may express, as far as words can express—and words are perfectly inadequate to give any idea of the feeling which I entertain—the grateful emotions of my heart, first, that Bradford has honoured her own character by her constancy and courage—(cheers)—and, secondly, that Bradford has in her exercise of judgment and of charity, bestowed upon me the highest office which she has to bestow. (Hear, hear.) You have placed me beside a right honourable colleague—(loud cheers)—who illustrates your character and your political principles in the high places of the land. You have given to me a seat in the House of Commons at a most critical moment, when subjects, I was going to say, of infinite importance, are being discussed and settled for the welfare of the United Kingdom, and especially of the sister kingdom of Ireland. (Cheers.) You have returned me—although in the last case I did not solicit the honour—you returned me in my absence, without its being at all necessary that I should stimulate your political excitement by my presence or by my speeches. You have waited patiently and unmurmuringly for some weeks before I have presented myself, in order that I may testify as to the obligation you have imposed on me; and whatever becomes of myself and of my reputation in the future, this I will say, that there are few Englishmen of the present day that can boast of having received higher honour from a constituency than I have done from you. (Loud cheering.) Profoundly,

and from the very depths of my nature, I thank you; but while I thank you, even greater than my thanks is my sense of heavy responsibility, so that I could well, in the moment of victory, have declined the honour put upon me, if also, in declining the honour, I could consistently have declined the duty the honour brings with it. But, ladies and gentleman, here I am your servant. (Prolonged cheering.)

After some further reference to the same subject, the hon. member said that in the House of Commons they did not carry their policies into social life. He hoped and believed it was so in Bradford. The reformed Parliament, though not so good as it will be, was very superior to any with which he had had acquaintance.

For earnestness, for intelligence, for sympathy with man as man, irrespective of his position, and for a determination to place all things on a footing of justice, I have never seen its equal; and I question whether any man in the present generation has. When I knew it some years ago, the House of Commons was a place where men could, and did, saunter away pleasantly and easily a portion of their time, and where any sense of responsibility was felt only by a few, and this few felt their responsibilities rather with regard to the middle class of society, than the great masses who achieve the wealth of the kingdom. Now, it is far otherwise. During the short period I have sat there, even when the House has converted itself into a committee, it has been so full that those who wished to speak and to take part in the business of the day, have had to go at an early hour to obtain a place; and usually the spirit of the assembly has been one of earnestness, and a spirit likely to accomplish great things for the country. And then such a leader as we have. (Loud cheers.) A man of such commanding and exalted ability; a man of moral qualities so fitting him for the work of Government; a man of such eloquence to command the dictates of his judgment to the judgments of his fellow-countrymen—(cheers)—a man so indefatigable and successful in the mastery of the details which enter into any question with which he grapples; such a man, I will not say, has never been the leader of the House of Commons before: but at all events I think such a man has not existed in our lifetime: and when it shall have pleased Providence, in its mysterious ways, to take him hence, I see no hope that we shall have anyone to supply his place. (Hear, hear.) But he is with us. He is ours: he is yours—(cheers)—yours in principles, yours in sympathy, yours in determination. Give him time; let his own conscience work—he needs no other stimulus. Let his own great moral qualities come fairly into play respecting any great principle into which he enters, and he will lead the majority of the House of Commons behind his back to the full and complete accomplishment of your desires. (Cheers.) There is no compromise about his nature. (Hear, hear.) He is not a Whig. ("No," and laughter.) He was a Tory, and he has come out of great darkness into marvellous light. (Loud cheering and laughter.) With all the truthfulness of his nature he follows after the truth, and whilst he has been well aware that his course would expose him to all manner of inconveniences, annoyances, ridicule, taunts, and other weapons of that nature which men make use of when they wish to stop you in a career of virtue—in spite of all this, he has moved steadily, regarding neither solicitations on the one hand nor intimidation on the other—(Hear, hear)—keeping his eye firmly fixed on that which he regards as the truth of the day and of the age, and devoting to it his whole being, body, soul, and spirit, that he may give effect to the ideas which exist in his mind. (Cheers, and a voice, "So has Miall.") Behind that leader the House of Commons has accomplished a great work, not fully, but so nearly in its complete shape, that we may now take credit for the House of Commons for having passed the Irish Church Bill. (Loud cheers.) It is a marvel of the age. (Hear, hear.) The history of that bill will be one of the most telling—aye, one of the most thrilling—chapters of history that our posterity can read. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Gladstone, I know, took incredible pains to have that bill perfect before he introduced it to the House of Commons. Any little service that I may have rendered in the cause, I rendered before that bill saw the light. (Prolonged and enthusiastic cheering.) But don't misunderstand me—I claim credit for very little. I claim credit chiefly for him whose name will be indelibly stamped on the measure. (Hear, hear.) The mode in which it was introduced into the House of Commons; the wonderfully lucid, transparent, persuasive eloquence with which he stated all its provisions, and showed to his audience—the most critical audience in the world—all the various proportions and relations of one part to another and of all to the main principle of the bill, was perhaps one of the greatest triumphs of oratorical genius which the present half-century has witnessed. (Cheers.) But this was scarcely so marvellous or impressive as the passing of the bill through committee, when Mr. Gladstone and the Irish Attorney-General showed themselves to be so perfectly master, not only of every little topic and detail in connection with the bill, but of all the information that lies about those details, so that at every point they could meet their adversaries, and in every point triumph over them. (Cheers.) The discipline of the party was not owing to any orders from head-quarters, but to entire confidence in their leader. And, therefore, everything was left in his hands on this conviction, that supposing any one was to rise and speak from behind his back, the more telling and incisive his speech was the more likely it would be that there would be five speeches on the other side in reply—(laughter and cheers); and that if we had all gone on talking—if we had talked when we could, if we had talked when it was unnecessary, or even if we had not abstained from talking when we thought we might have put in a few words not inappropriate to the occasion—the bill would have been dawdled about the House of Commons till the House of Lords would have had a fair and reasonable pretext for not entertaining the measure during the present session, on the ground of the little time that was left to them to consider its merits. ("Hear, hear," and loud cheers.) We have deprived them of that excuse. Shoulder to shoulder, silently behind Mr. Gladstone, we have gone into the lobby, exhibiting a uniform majority, the range of which was only between some 90 and 128 votes. (Cheers.) And we have so endorsed every part of the measure that I should like to see how the House of Lords will be able to pick a hole in it. (Cheers and

laughter.) We shall send it up to them before this month is out; or at least we shall have done with it ourselves on the 31st of this month. And I think they will find that it is so sound in principle; that it has been so circumstantially sustained by the voice of the country; that it is so carefully and artistically drawn; that its points are so interwoven one with another; that there is such a uniformity of texture about it, that they will be utterly unable so to separate one portion of it from the other by their destructive work, so as to give them the smallest chance of success. (Hear, hear.) What will they do? is now the inquiry of every man who takes an interest in the politics of the country. What will they do; perhaps they only know—perhaps they don't know. (Laughter.) It will be a daring thing, after having once suspended the expression of judgment on the part of the people professedly with a view to appeal to the new constituencies, and having found that decision firmly and fully given on behalf of the principles, and impliedly of the details, of the measure—it will be a daring thing for any body of men, whatever be the ground of privilege on which they stand, once more to fling back in the face of the nation a question on which they have invited the nation's opinion—(cheers)—and to tell the people of the country that they will not permit their House to endorse anything the people have determined with regard to the great principle of religious equality. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) But they will pass it. (Hear, hear.) I believe they will pass it, and pass it materially as it is—(cheers);—or if they do not, we have a Government, we have a House of Commons, that will not give way a single inch. (Vehement cheering.) What may come I will not presume to prophesy; but if that bill be cast out, there is one thing I can predict, which is of a negative character, which nobody will be able to gainsay, and I am sure the facts will confirm it—the Lords, spiritual and temporal—(cheers and laughter)—will have to say at some future period of their being that they had the very best Irish Church Bill placed before them for their approbation that they are likely to have for many a year—(cheers)—the most consistent, the most lenient, the most generous and indulgent measure that Parliament is likely to pass. Let them reject it, and we shall have a better bill next year—(laughter and cheers),—if it be possible to have a better bill.

They had a Government equally honest, sincere, and determined with regard to the taxation and expenditure. (Hear, hear.) Already a saving of two millions had been effected, and at no distant time they might realize Mr. Bright's "free breakfast-table." He believed the House of Commons would back up Mr. Gladstone in endeavouring to cut away that extravagance of the services whereby so much had been done to pauperize the English people. (Hear, hear.) Something more than giving religious equality needed to be done for Ireland. There must be something materially wrong when the whole soil of the country was possessed, he would not say by members of this religion or of that religion, but really by strangers to the country, and not by the native inhabitants there. (Cheers.) He would encourage no vain thoughts, no yearnings after the impracticable, no subversive schemes; but he believed they had now a Government thoroughly intent, not upon pleasing the landlords, nor even on yielding to the wishes of the people, but on doing justice and right to the great majority of the Irish people; and he was fully convinced that they would find out a way, quite as well adapted to settle that question, as the Irish Church Bill now before Parliament was adapted to settle the ecclesiastical question. (Loud cheers.) But Ireland was not the only country that wanted governing wisely and well. Their own social state was far from what it should be. Measures for education—primary education, secondary education, university education—all based on the same principles—undenominational, so far as might be, in their character, and resting *pro rata* on the contributions of the inhabitants of the land, were objects at which they must all aim, and were objects which, step by step, they would be able to accomplish in this generation. Then there was the question of the relations between capital and labour, which was partially solving itself. He believed that both masters and men were intent on finding some point of contact between their sympathies and needs, and that that point would be ascertained so that masters and men—labour and capital—would be able to achieve an entire reconciliation tending to the interests of both. The chairman had reminded him of something that he said about the Ten Hours Bill. In correction of false impressions which had been circulated, Mr. Miall said that originally he did not regard the Ten Hours Bill agitation as entirely genuine, but as intended to hamper the free-trade movement. He had condemned it in one article which really approved of the principle at stake. That was all he had ever done in the matter; yet he was regarded as especially the man whose body and soul had been devoted to opposition to that agitation, in order to frustrate it. What a compliment it was to his power! (Cheers and laughter.) Well, like many others, he had been mistaken in his judgment. The measure had accomplished great results; and it had done so all the more because those who were defeated—the master manufacturers—when the measure was passed, took to it kindly, and having done so gave it all the better chance of success. He had never heard a whisper among working men, until he became acquainted with some few people in Bradford, that he was to be considered as a man who all his life had been working against the objects on which they had set their hearts. (A voice: "Never mind them.") Mind them! No, he hoped not. If the chairman had not called his attention to the subject that evening, he should not have thought it worthy of being brought under their notice. Mr. Miall concluded by saying—

I do not wish to be considered as the member of only one single party in Bradford. (Cries of "Hear, hear.") I wish fairly to represent the whole community, in conjunction with my right honourable and highly-respected

colleagues, Mr. Forster. (Hear, hear.) I cherish no enmities. I mean to abide by the principles I have endeavoured to explain to those of my friends who have supported me, and to those electors who have opposed me. I hope I shall not swerve from them, unless my understanding views them in quite a different light than that in which it presents them at the present moment; and when I alter my principles I shall give you an opportunity of altering your choice. But this I will say—that, reserving my right to stand by the political ideas and truths which I have endeavoured to place before this constituency (and in that sense being a party man), I shall be a party man with regard to my relations with this borough no further; and whatever service a member ought to place at the disposal of his constituents, I shall be most happy to place at the disposal of any of those constituents without asking whether they supported or opposed me. I beseech you that all bitterness and excitement of feeling subside. Very little, I trust, remains; but let those remains be put aside as utterly inconsistent with the character of the contest you have conducted to so triumphant a conclusion. You can afford, as you have afforded, to be gentle to your opponents. You have done what I cannot but regard as a right thing, because you have maintained and exalted the character of the borough for purity and consistency; and having done this—having done this, don't suffer yourselves to be provoked by those persons whose constitution is so unfortunate that they cannot dismiss the sense of wrong personally done to them, because their views of political truth have been opposed and triumphed over by others. I shall have the opportunity of seeing you once or twice again; and therefore I will not go through all the topics on which I could speak. But from my whole heart I wish to express once more my thanks to you; and I trust that the confidence which I have in you as a constituency, the pride I take in the relation I sustain towards you, and the determination I feel that I will serve you as wisely, as well, as faithfully, as my qualities of mind and body will permit, that whenever our present relation towards each other shall terminate, I trust that neither you nor I shall be able to look back upon our intimate and united connection, one with another, without this cheering reflection that, as far as we could, we endeavoured to benefit one another. I conclude by moving that the thanks of this meeting be given to our chairman, not only for his conduct to-night in the chair, but for all the services which he has given to the cause. (Prolonged cheering, in the midst of which the honourable gentleman sat down, having spoken for an hour and a quarter.)

Mr. JAMES WALLWORK seconded the motion, and Mr. A. ILLINGWORTH supported it in a speech in which he expressed a hearty concurrence with Mr. Miall's views on the progress of the Irish Church question. The motion was carried with enthusiasm. Mr. KELL briefly responded, and the proceedings closed.

RECEPTION OF THE RIGHT HON. W. E. FORSTER.

Mr. Forster met his constituents on Thursday evening in St. George's Hall, at Bradford. The spacious hall was crowded with an enthusiastic assembly, who gave the right hon. gentleman, as well as his hon. colleague, Mr. Miall, by whom he was accompanied, a very hearty reception. Mr. Alderman Brown presided.

On the motion of Mr. Alderman Law, seconded by Mr. Alderman COLE, the following resolution was adopted with acclamation:—

That this meeting, in the name of the Liberal party of Bradford, desire to express its hearty congratulations to Mr. Forster on the honourable position to which he has been appointed in the present Government, and assures him of the ever-increasing confidence entertained in his ability and integrity as a statesman and a Minister of the Crown.

Mr. FORSTER rose to reply, and was received with several rounds of very enthusiastic cheering. He expressed thanks to the assembly for the resolution, congratulated them on the result of the last election, and then remarked upon the long contest in which the borough had been involved, and his own position in reference to it:—

I thank you, not merely for giving me a colleague of whom I have reason to be proud—(loud cheers)—not merely for sending to Parliament a man whom the country felt ought to be in Parliament—(Hear, hear)—but it is for reasons stronger and greater than those that I am more proud of Bradford at the end of this contest than I was when it began. I am very anxious to say nothing that should grate upon the feelings of any of our opponents. Let us hope we shall all be on terms of kindly fellowship, and performing our duty together as fellow-townsmen, without any remembrance of any past animosity. But still they will not complain against me if I say that—as a public politician, and a man whose business is politics, because I think it a most important business, one of the best businesses which any man can be in to try to serve his country—I rejoice that the result of this long contest of eight months, or of eighteen months, was that Bradford gave its decision according to political principles—(cheers)—and not upon any other ground. I am well aware that our friends on the other side might well fancy to themselves that they had sufficient reasons for opposing us; that the fact of a man not being a tradesman, a Bradford tradesman, and not being a Bradford inhabitant, was a reason why he should not be a Bradford member. But they will pardon me when I say that that is not the way that politicians who have to conduct the business of the country know that it must be conducted. (Applause.) And I say that I rejoice that you have decided according to the conditions of that occupation; and your business in electing a man was to elect a man—and you have done so—who would most completely represent you in Parliament. (Cheers.) Well, but it is great principles; it is the reliance upon great principles, it is fidelity to great principles, that have given you the conquest in this long struggle. (Cheers.) Well, then, I only ask you—I have hardly occasion to ask you, I know that it will be given me before I ask, it has been given me before—I only ask you to remember that, having decided that question upon these great political grounds of patriotic principles, any sort of paltry personal triumph over your opponents will be unworthy and inconsistent with these

principles. (Hear, hear.) Remember your principles, and forget your opponents. (Cheers.)

He then turned to the questions of the day. He knew that the Ministry was a Ministry in which the country ought to have confidence, and had confidence; and, above all, he had faith in his chief; he had faith in Mr. Gladstone, and he believed they had faith in him. (Loud cheers.) On the education question he referred his hearers to what he had said in Leeds on the preceding night. The Government this year were engaged in considering the question of secondary education, and next year, if nothing more important interfered, they intended to devote themselves to a consideration of the subject of elementary education. The position of the Ministry at the present time was much easier than it had been during the preceding Administration, a circumstance which he attributed to the fact that the Reform Bill had been passed last session. He (Mr. Forster) did not see that the composition of the House of Commons was materially different, but the members had to act differently, owing to having enlarged constituencies at their back. The time had now come when it was possible to make complete and searching reforms; in fact, reforms now must be of that character. The Irish Church Bill was a measure of that class, and he attributed its success to the fact that it possessed that quality. (Hear.) It had been attempted by the Conservatives to put the Government on a false scent by saying that they ought to deal with the land question; but, in his opinion, one great measure was enough for the time. If it were anything in the shape of consolation or comfort for their opponents in the House, he might state that next year the Irish land question would be tackled in a similar way by Government as the Irish Church measure had been. (Cheers.) The right hon. gentleman next alluded to the American question, especially referring to the speech of Senator Sumner, a personal friend of his. He spoke only his individual sentiments, and had always been desirous of cultivating the friendship of the United States. Now Mr. Sumner had taken ground which he greatly deplored. First, the proclamation of neutrality appeared to be a great cause of offence, and Mr. Sumner described that act as being precipitate, premature, uncalled-for, and hostile. It might have been issued a few days earlier than it should have been. For himself, wishing ardently for the success of the North, and the preservation of the Union, he most earnestly desired that proclamation, and did all he could to obtain it:—

In fact, it so happens, as I stated last year in the House of Commons, that at that moment I had only just been returned by you, and although I was then an unimportant member, I felt it my duty—possibly because I was more alive to the question than other members, as I had watched it before—to put myself forward more than otherwise I could have felt I had a right to do, in putting questions to Ministers on the subject, and bringing it before them. And the real fact is that the first statement that there should be a proclamation issued was made in answer to a question of mine by Sir George Lewis, the then Home Secretary. Why was it I asked that question? Why was I anxious for that proclamation? For this reason, that I knew the leaders of the South had sent over to England letters of marque, and I was afraid that, unless there were orders issued preventing it, privateers with letters of marque would sail from our ports without delay. (Hear, hear.) "Well, but then," Mr. Sumner would say, "it was your business to have declared these men pirates, and to have taken them up as pirates." That was my first feeling, and I remember very well—as well as if it had been yesterday—considering whether I should not come forward in the House of Commons and ask that they should be treated as pirates. But I left that this would be a strong measure to take, and that I should be sure of my ground before making the application; and I remember very well going to the best Admiralty authorities that I could consult, and not being content with that, searching through the library of the House of Commons, and looking over the opinions of writers on international law one after another, and especially looking over the writings of the great international lawyer, Wheaton. I saw clearly, according to the principles of international law now acknowledged by civilised Governments, and especially advocated and enunciated by the United States, that when there was a war or insurrection between rebels and a Government any neutral country was bound to consider that to be a state of war, and could not look upon either party as pirates, and that it could not treat its own subjects who might aid either party as pirates, although it was bound to do all it could to prevent those subjects from aiding them. (Hear.) The reply that is made by Mr. Sumner to that—and I must state, if he will allow me to say so, and I would say it to him if he were here, that it was a reply that was not made at that time—is this, "Oh, there was war by land; we do not deny it" (Hear, hear)—and I think it would be difficult for them to deny it, considering the immense amount of courage, of resources, and of patriotism they have been obliged to show to conquer in that war. "There was war by land," he said, "but there was no war by sea, and you made that war by proclaiming neutrality and recognising the South as a belligerent Power." (Hear.) Well, but really that is not the case. It is true that the South had her ports locked up, and that very few vessels got out; although it is a fact which our American friends do not seem to remember that the four first vessels that came out with the flag of the South to prey upon Northern commerce came out of Southern ports, and that they came out a year before any vessel was built in England. And I believe that one of them—at any rate, a vessel—was adjudged by the North not to be a pirate, but to be a belligerent. (Hear, hear.) But, putting that out of consideration, there was war upon water, or else what was the meaning of blockade? (Hear, hear.) The blockade was an act of war. Sealing the seaports was an act of war. Mr. Sumner says, "Do not consider the word 'blockade'; we might have closed the ports instead." But really this is playing with words. What was our position? We were carrying on a great trade with the South—a

trade which was the life and bread of a large portion of our population. That trade was suddenly stopped—stopped by the blockade of the North—by the act of the North—the forcible act of the North; and I say it is vain and foolish not to allow that to have been the act of a belligerent Power. Why, the first speech I made in the House of Commons was in the interest of the North against the South, to prevent, not the recognition of what actually did exist—the recognition of a war, and the recognition of belligerency, which was a fact—but to prevent the recognition of what was not a fact, and has not become a fact, I am thankful to say—the independence of the South. (Hear, hear.) What was my greatest argument in speaking against the recognition? Why, that this blockade, which was the act of a belligerent Power, was an effective blockade, and not a sham blockade. ("Hear," and cheers.) Then it was complained by Mr. Sumner that having proclaimed her neutrality, England broke the proclamation. Strong language was used in Parliament, but he was thankful to say that words derogatory to America had never fallen without rebuke in either of our Houses of Parliament. (Cheers.) Then it was said the clubs and drawing-rooms were hostile to the North. But was England to be judged by them?

If they wanted to know what England felt, they, the Republicans, the men of the people, ought to have gone to the workshops of the people—(cheers)—and the hearths of the people. There they would have found in that workshop in Lancashire, which was no longer a workshop because of their war; by that hearthstone, which was cold and dreary, where there was hardly a meal that could be cooked because of that war—there they would have found their friends; and it is not fair for Mr. Sumner, or for any American, to forget those friends, and merely to remember those fashionable men who, after all, did not guide the destinies of England. (Cheers.) I have talked about what individuals have done, but I feel that that is not what we really have to do with. But I am referring to it because our American friends so constantly talk about what individuals have done. But what they have to do with is what the Government has done. (Hear.) Well, you and we—we by your help—kept the Government straight, and the Government did not fling its sword on the side of slavery. It is true that Lord Russell, or rather the men who were acting under Lord Russell—because it was not his doing—allowed the Alabama to escape. There was great, as I believe, great neglect in allowing her to escape; I believe there was a great mistake in allowing her refuge in British ports. You know that I did my best to denounce and expose that mistake; but I feel that I have some little right to complain against my friend Mr. Sumner when in this question, and this great crisis of a great question, he quotes my words as it were against my own country without remembering that those words were used for his country, and used with success—(Hear, hear)—for we did keep England, as I say, from breaking the neutrality. There was that great mistake upon the Alabama, for which we are willing to submit to arbitration, and to pay damages if the arbitrator—as I dare say he would—decides against us. But it must not be forgotten that although Lord Russell—or, rather, the men who professed to serve Lord Russell, and served him badly in that matter of letting the Alabama out—that Lord Russell, guided by experience, strained the law to keep the same from going out. (Hear, hear.) But there is a far more important case than that. Mr. Sumner says we were guilty of half of that terrible war which they had to undergo. Well, there was a time at which their fortunes looked as though they were very dreary, at which I felt more fearful than I could venture to acknowledge, at which patriotic Americans that I met felt more fearful than they liked to acknowledge; and at that time the ruler of France came like a tempter and asked England, and tried to persuade England, to join him in carrying out his plans of ambition upon the American continent, and in declaring on the side of the South. If England and France had done that—well, I believe, that the North would still have conquered, such is the power of freedom and of freedom; but her cost would have been quadrupled—aye, quintupled. It was from that that England saved her, acting according to the wish and determination of Lord Russell, for nothing would have induced Lord Russell to aid the slave power—supported by you, by those of us who were the friends of America, and whom I complain of Mr. Sumner for now forgetting. (Hear.)

Mr. Sumner said the truth must be told. He believed he (Mr. Forster) had told the truth, and did not think any American would complain of him for doing so.

They have not a monopoly of patriotism in America, and we have as much right to be proud of our country as they have of theirs. (Cheers.) There is a line beyond which concession would be a crime, because it would be a sacrifice of that position amongst civilised nations which alone makes England able to do her duty. But truth may be told, and the truth will be heard. I have no fear of the future in this matter. I have been speaking more warmly than there was reason to do, more because I felt so much on the whole question that it grieves me to hear and to see those men for whom I have been struggling, and for whom I would have sacrificed almost anything, apparently misunderstanding my country and forgetting their friends. But I have no fear of the future. The great aim of my life has been and will be—it is an aim which may well compensate for any political labour or political sacrifice—to see a firm and lasting alliance among all English-speaking people. (Cheers.) Some persons will say that is impossible. Look at Ireland discontented, and America in a state of irritation. But I do not despair of that time. I look forward to it with the most confident hope. What have been the obstacles against it? There have been three. There was the oppression of Ireland by us; there has been slavery in America—a principle opposed to us; there has been our oligarchical government in England. All these three causes are removed. (Loud cheers.) We are no longer oppressing Ireland; we are determined to treat her with justice. (Loud cheers.) America has abolished slavery—(cheers)—and we in England have a Government by the people for the people—(renewed cheering)—and depend upon it that mutual interests, mutual sympathies, common institutions, common language, ties of blood will maintain the

alliance between our countries. ("Hear, hear," and loud cheers.) We shall be at peace, we shall go on prospering in peace, and our peace will eventually be peace for the world. ("Hear, hear," and loud cheers.) I do not believe that war will arise out of this question. No; I believe that there never will be war between England and the United States. (Cheers.) And why do I say so? Because I believe that by men both in England and America it will be looked upon as a civil war; and I believe we have seen the last civil war among English-speaking men—the war in which men of the North, fighting for the Union, fought the battle of freedom against slavery. (Cheers.) I believe the conquest of freedom, peace-giving, justice-giving, and mercy-giving freedom, will bring peace to all men who speak the English language, and, as I say, that peace will eventually give peace to the world. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Mr. MIAULL, M.P., who was loudly cheered on presenting himself, said that after listening to the important and weighty speech of Mr. Forster, and calling to mind what an influence that speech might exert—not simply upon the mind of our own country, but upon the minds of the American people—he could not but feel a thrill of emotion at the recollection that but for the justice of his cause, the purity of his character, and the earnestness of his constituents, his right hon. colleague might, by the agency of men dwelling in Bradford, have been no longer their representative. (Hear, hear.) Throughout their election contest, he had trembled lest the shots which were aimed at himself should pass through the body of his friend. Bradford had more than sustained its position as one of the foremost boroughs of this kingdom—(cheers)—and even the comparative stain that seemed to be brought upon her reputation having been wiped away, that reputation was brighter throughout the whole world than ever it was before. (Cheers.)

My hope and my belief is, such is the power of science applied to art, and to all the contrivances of life, that before many days are over that speech which has been delivered to you, and to which you have listened with such thrilling interest, will be circulated all over the United States—("Hear, hear," and cheers)—and, after all, Americans as well as Englishmen love good sense and justice in their relations one with another. (Cheers.) Like Mr. Forster, I have no fear whatever of war between the two countries; but, like him also, I dread anything like an irritative feeling which shall prevent the most friendly intercourse between the inhabitants of the two countries. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) He concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was heartily seconded by Mr. Forster, and carried amidst general cheering. Mr. Brown having briefly replied, the proceedings were brought to a termination.

DEMONSTRATION IN MANNINGHAM PARK.

An open-air demonstration in honour of the return of Messrs. Forster and Miall took place on Saturday at Woodlands Park, Manningham, the seat of Mr. Angus Holden. In the early part of the day rain fell in heavy showers, but the weather cleared up suddenly and beautifully before the demonstration commenced, and the proceedings were successfully carried through. At five o'clock a number of speeches were delivered from the terrace in front of Mr. Holden's house, and at this hour an immense gathering had collected, the numbers having been estimated at from twenty to thirty thousand. The Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., and Mr. Miall, M.P., were both present, as was also Mr. Illingworth, M.P., but the speeches that were made were mainly congratulatory and complimentary.

Mr. HOLDEN said the next part of the proceedings was the presentation to Mr. Miall of an illuminated address that had been prepared by Mr. George Cook. He believed there were about fifteen hundred signatures attached to the address, but that number must not be taken as representing anything like the number of men in Bradford who, if necessary, would willingly have signed such a document. The address was intended mainly as a personal compliment.

The address had been very tastefully written out and emblazoned, and along with it there was an ornamental case with carved feet. The address was to the following effect, the date indicating when it was got up:—

Bradford, Yorkshire, March 16, 1869.

To Edward Miall, Esquire.

We, the undersigned working men of Bradford, most heartily congratulate you on becoming our representative in the Commons House of Parliament, assured that you are a fit and proper person, in conjunction with our esteemed member the Right Hon. William Edward Forster, not only to represent our borough, but also the true and honest principles of thorough Liberalism.

And we are convinced that there are certain critical and very important affairs in the present crisis of our country's history requiring legislative settlement, which we consider you eminently adapted to advance, and to assist in bringing to a peaceful and satisfactory arrangement.

And we also pledge ourselves, so long as we find you on the side of truth and justice, and influenced by those thorough principles which you have hitherto so nobly sustained, to rest our confidence in you, and to support you on all and every occasion.

And we pray that your valuable life may be long preserved to enable you to advance our interests and the interests of society at large.

Mr. COOK, in making the presentation, said that if the address was not made up of elaborate sentences, it yet contained the signatures of fifteen hundred working men whose hands and heads had gone together. (Applause.) So long as those hands were left unshackled, so long as those minds were left unbiased and uncontaminated, so long would they be found supporting all who laboured for truth and justice. (Applause.)

Mr. MIAULL, in reply, said: With the greatest pleasure I accept this address, signed by fifteen hundred working men, as a testimony of their respect for, and confidence in, me as their latest chosen represen-

tative. I have not the smallest doubt that if such a thing were required, thousands upon thousands of signatures would have been added to those that were obtained. (Cheers.) All marks of favour are of course pleasant to those who receive them, and I shall put this document among those which I hope to hand down to my children, and which will testify at any rate that their father, in days gone by, received the respect and confidence of the people of Bradford. (Loud cheers.)

Cheers had been given between the speeches for Mr. and Mrs. Forster, and Mr. and Mrs. Miall, and after Mr. Miall's reply to the address, cheers were given, on the motion of Mr. Alderman Brown, for Mr. and Mrs. Holden, and with these cheers what may be called the formal part of the "demonstration" was brought to a close. For some hours afterwards Woodlands Park was a scene of great festivity, and in the evening there was a display of fireworks.

WOMEN'S PRESENTATION TO MR. MIAULL.

(From the *Leeds Mercury* and *Bradford Observer*.)

One of the most remarkable meetings ever held in connection with the representation of Bradford, or probably of any other constituency in the kingdom, took place on Monday night in St. George's Hall, when between four and five thousand of the women of Bradford assembled in that splendid room, for the purpose of presenting Mr. Miall, M.P., with a testimonial indicative of their sympathies with him during his recent Parliamentary contests. The movement originated shortly after Mr. Miall's defeat in November of last year, and has been lately pursued with none the less earnestness because the course of events has changed what was intended to be an act, as it were, of consolation, into a recognition of the hon. gentleman's triumphant return to Parliament. About 6000 were raised for the purpose of the testimonial, and it was most gracefully resolved that Mrs. and Miss Miall should share in the honour conferred upon the honourable member. For Mr. Miall 375 volumes of high-class literature and books of reference were selected, and inclosed in a couple of handsome walnut bookcases; for Mrs. Miall there was provided a beautiful gilt and ormolu clock, surmounted by a chaste group representative of the awaking of Cupid, and two candelabra—all charming works of art; and for Miss Miall was purchased a walnut piano, by Collard and Collard, valued at 115 guineas. Inscriptions recording the nature of the presentation accompanied each article. On the silver plates of the bookcases were inscribed the following words:—"Presented by the women of Bradford to Edward Miall, Esq., M.P.: 24th May, 1869." The bookcases, clock, and piano occupied prominent positions on the platform, and were objects of great admiration. With the exception of the speakers and the reporters, the attendance was entirely composed of women, and the proceedings were of the most novel and agreeable character. The greeting given to Mr. Miall and his good lady was not a whit less earnest and sincere because it was expressed by the waving of handkerchiefs and the clapping of hands instead of by the stentorian cheers that usually accompany the speakers to the platform. Not that cheering was wanting; for although at first the ladies seemed rather amused at the novelty of their position, and were rather inclined to titter when some one was bold enough to express concurrence with the remarks made from the chair by a feeble "Hear, hear," they gained courage as the night advanced, and the enthusiasm during Mr. Miall's speech was quite equal to that manifested by the male audiences who so frequently meet in St. George's Hall. Mr. Titus Salt occupied the chair.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with applause and the waving of handkerchiefs, said that he really felt overpowered by that grand demonstration, and did not feel himself competent to make an address. He was surrounded by many gentlemen who would speak to them that evening, and he could only assure the ladies that he felt highly honoured at the position in which he was placed. He felt satisfied that the object of this demonstration was worthy of all the efforts they had made, and he thought it was a great honour to the women of Bradford, and would be long remembered. (Loud applause.)

Mr. R. KELL proposed the following resolution:—

That this meeting of women gives its heartfelt thanks to the 9,245 electors who achieved at the last contest so great a victory for true Liberal principles, and warmly congratulates the inhabitants of the borough in the return of Mr. E. Miall as the colleague of Mr. Forster.

(Applause.) He said it was the first time he had ever to speak to over 4,000 women, and it almost unmanned him. He considered that the work accomplished in the return of Mr. Miall was a great work, and had been mainly brought about by the working men of Bradford, who had taken the matter in hand and worked it out to a successful issue. (Cheers.)

Mr. Councillor TURNER seconded the resolution, and expressed the opinion that if the women of Bradford were again called upon they would support their husbands in the advocacy of Liberal principles. (Applause.)

Mr. A. ILLINGWORTH, M.P., in supporting the resolution, congratulated the women of Bradford on the course they had taken in supporting the men in advocating the principles of Liberalism. He told Mr. Miall that he had won a fair lady in winning the borough of Bradford, and expressed a hope that long might the connection last and strengthen. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then put the motion, which was carried with loud applause and the waving of handkerchiefs.

Mr. Alderman Brown said the committee of ladies had done him the very great honour of asking him

to read for them the address to Mr. Miall which had been prepared for that occasion, and he could assure them that the address had been prepared in all respects quite worthy of presentation by the ladies of Bradford. (Applause.) He was deputed by the committee to express their great pleasure in meeting the subscribers, who had come together in such large numbers. (Applause.) When the testimonial was first thought of, Mr. Miall had sustained a defeat, and the ladies came forward to show their sympathy and respect for him. No sooner was the matter mooted than sixty females at once came forward and gave themselves up to the work of canvassing for subscriptions. (Applause.) They had been very successful in their labour, for it was a "labour of love," and collected about £600. (Applause.) That amount was raised in sums from 1d. to 10/-, and the copper of the poor women and the silver and gold of the rich had been given cheerfully and thankfully in order that they might show honour to the man who, for twenty-five years, had given himself to the great work of civil liberty and religious equality. (Applause.) He was glad to find there were so many warm-hearted women in the borough, whose names had been bound in a book that would be presented to Mr. Miall, along with the other beautiful articles that had been purchased for Mr. Miall, and his wife and daughter. (Applause.) Mr. Brown concluded by reading the following address, which was received with loud and hearty demonstrations of approval:—

TO EDWARD MIALL, ESQ., M.P. FOR THE BOROUGH OF BRADFORD.

Dear Sir,—Unusual as it may be for women to obtrude themselves in matters of public moment, we venture to hope that the peculiar circumstances of this occasion will amply justify our present course. It has been alleged during the recent political struggles that the sympathies of our sex were not with you. Never was charge more unfounded. Not only as aiding our husbands, brothers, and sons, but from our individual love of what is noble, true, and powerful, we have ardently espoused your cause. As women we have been intensely moved by the nature of the opposition you have encountered, though well aware that it could not permanently injure a reputation so firmly established as your own. Permit us now to express our unbounded admiration of your past career, of your life-long devotion amidst many sacrifices to the advancement of civil liberty and religious equality, and of all which can dignify and bless humanity. Receive, dear Sir, our heartfelt congratulations on the triumphant issue of our late protracted struggle. As a memorial of these sentiments we beg to present to you, to Mrs. Miall, and to Miss Miall, some tokens of our affectionate remembrance. We accompany them by the prayer that God may bless you with long life and extended usefulness, and may permit you to realize to its largest extent the accomplishment of the noble objects for which you have so earnestly laboured.

We are, dear Sir, on behalf of the subscribers, "

Yours very truly,
JULIA MYERS, President.
ANNIE WHITEHEAD, Secretary.
ELIZA WHITAKER, Treasurer.
ANN WIVILL.
SUSANNAH JACKSON.
FANNY DOWSON.
MARY ADA CLARK.
BEULAH KEZIA HANSON.

Bradford, May 24th, 1869.

Mrs. JOSEPH MYERS then presented to Mr. Miall, amidst hearty applause, a handsomely bound volume, containing the names of the subscribers.

Mr. MIALL, M.P., on rising to address the meeting was received in the most cordial manner—the whole of the ladies rising, cheering heartily, and waving their handkerchiefs. On silence being obtained, the hon. gentleman said:—

Women of Bradford—I prefer to address you by the title that denotes your sex, rather than that which would have denoted your station—I am dazzled, I am appalled by the scene before me. I have stood—I was going to say unshaking—before as large an assemblage as this when opposition was raised against sentiments I wished to express, and I have stood fearless and unmoved; but such kindness as yours; this gentle welcome that you have given to me and mine; this expression of your confidence and affection, almost unmans me and unites me to discharge the responsible duty which devolves upon me to thank you in my own name and in the names of my wife and daughter for the expression of your regard that you have given to us this evening. (Hear, hear.) I hope I truly interpret your sentiments, and that I do not attribute to myself that which you did not intend to ascribe to me, when I look upon these beautiful gifts of yours in the first place as the utterance of indignant womanhood in Bradford. (Cheers.) Some one had taken liberties with your name, and woe be to the man who disposes of the will of a woman without having first asked her consent. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) They claimed you entirely to themselves, but they claimed you without having first ask the question—"Hear, hear," and laughter)—and in all matters of that kind; in all matters where the will, the pleasure, and I may say the political or moral reputation of women is concerned, she naturally stands upon the dignity of her sex, and will not allow herself to be disposed of as a slave. (Cheers.) You have been pleased to vindicate your own character, and your vindication appears in this assembly to-night, so complete, so overwhelming, so crushing that I pity those who took liberties with your name, and assumed that you had given yourselves to them. (Hear, hear.) Ladies, women of Bradford, let me in the next place interpret this utterance of your regard towards us as an utterance of sympathy. (Hear, hear.) I needed not to be reminded, though it was well and proper I should be reminded, that I came not here specially to receive a chaplet of fame upon my brow, deeming triumph. It is not as your member that you are dealing with me—I came here to receive that tribute of sympathy originating in your bosoms when I was a defeated candidate—(Hear, hear)—and it was just at that moment when I was stricken down by unfair play—("Hear, hear," and cheers)—and sent abroad upon the world with as much

ignominy and disgrace as could be thrown upon a defeated candidate, as such—it was then that your sympathy rose up spontaneously in your hearts. (Hear, hear.) Whatever you may have felt for me before, and however you may have approved of those political principles that I had advocated through this borough, from one end of it to another, the mere fact that I had been treated unfairly was quite sufficient to win your support, and in that hour I could not help but think of the lines of the poet Scott, who said—

Oh woman! in her hours of ease,
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please;
When pain and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel thou.

(Cheers.) It was worth while going through that defeat in order to arrive at this victory. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The gateway was dark; gloom and sadness pervaded the passage through which I had to walk; but when I emerged into the sunshine as I have done this night and have seen such enthusiastic and affectionate attachment to me as the representative of certain principles, I may say I bless God equally for what I have suffered as for what I now enjoy. (Cheers.) I believe that you intend this meeting to be an expression likewise of your will to be associated with your husbands, with your sons, and with your brothers, in any good work which they undertake. (Cheers.) It is not for men who do not care for our principles to draw a distinction between you and them in the homes in which you dwell. They were much mistaken if they supposed that nine thousand four hundred and thirty-two men could band themselves together in behalf of principles which they loved and which they wished to advance to triumph, if they had not peace, sympathy, and concurrence in their homes. (Cheers.) I could not have done the work which I have done for seven-and-twenty or eight-and-twenty years past if I had been deprived of home sympathy—that sympathy which dwells within the domestic circle—(Hear, hear)—and from many a trial to which I have been exposed, and from many a disappointment which has almost overwhelmed my soul, it has been my happiness through life that I could retreat to that sacred spot, and always find the comfort and consolation that I required. (Cheers.) For anybody to suppose that this great work which has been done in this borough would be done contrary to the wishes and in opposition to the determination of the women of Bradford argues that he must have been strangely unconscious of those powers—those secret motive powers—by which the world has always moved onwards towards feats of heroism. (Cheers.) If ever we do that which we ought to do in a right spirit, if ever we illustrate our own names by deeds that have blessed others, depend upon it we have been moved somewhere: we have been operated upon in some part of our mind or our emotions by the dictates and the smiles of womankind. (Cheers.) Well, I trust I am not taking too great a liberty in interpreting this evening's meeting and those presents you have given as testimonials of your regard—I hope I am not interpreting your minds erroneously when I take them as an expression of your consent to and your sympathy with those political principles for which the Liberal electors of this borough contended at the last general election. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Depend upon it, whatever may be the ultimate sphere in which woman will move in relation to political affairs, it is of the utmost importance that woman's mind and woman's heart should be well acquainted with the great principles which lie at the basis of political truth. (Hear, hear.) You see quicker and clearer and purer than we do in reference to all great moral principles; and those politics which have no ultimate reference to moral principles are politics which it is neither worthy of you nor ourselves to pursue as an end. (Hear, hear.) Justice between man and man; equality as between all religions; faith sustaining itself by its own vitality, and love showing its power by its works of benevolence: these are the principles that are at issue in our day; and these are the principles that women can thoroughly understand and embrace. (Hear, hear.) Your homes will be more entirely and fully dignified when these principles pervade all politics and all laws of the realm than they have ever done before. You most sincerely feel indignant when those who are dear to you are put aside as though they were unworthy, and others, for no other reason than that their station is somewhat higher, are put into their place. In all respects you are interested in claiming, on behalf of your husbands and your sons, the rights that are due to them as citizens, and when those rights are properly possessed, and when they are moreover so exercised as to be in accordance with the dictates of wisdom and of justice, there are none in this wide creation who will have so much reason to rejoice in the triumph of those principles as woman herself. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) It has been the fashion of man to degrade her by lording it over her; and of course man, to justify himself in doing this, has assumed that the political sphere is a sphere altogether apart from that in which woman ought to move. We have our first lessons in morality from the mouths of our mothers, and we have our chief support in adversity in the arms and bosoms of our wives; and he is a man who can accomplish little in this world, however he may set his heart upon the fond, the pure, the affectionate counsels of woman. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Happy will be the day in England—happy will be the day throughout the world—when woman takes her real and proper position—when she stands in that respect as in others the helpmate of man—(cheers)—when her pure instincts shall always be exercised to detect wrong and injustice wherever it exists, and when all her emotions of love and pity, of hope and joy, shall express themselves in those objects in which her husband, or her brother, or her son, as the case may be, is deeply interested. (Cheers.) We shall have gentler politics when the gentle sex take to politics as they should—("Hear, hear," and cheers)—not party politics—not the distinction between "tweedledum and tweedledee"—(laughter)—not that line of politics which simply determined who shall be in and who shall be out—(Hear, hear)—but the welfare of the nation in its national capacity—(Hear, hear)—true economy in the management of its finances—(cheers)—just and beneficent objects as the end of its pursuit; and the welfare of all and of each, in their divided and in their united capacity, as one of the great businesses for which Government is responsible. ("Hear," and cheers.) Women of Brad-

ford, take your part. Let your benign gentle influence smile away as far as it can, the asperities of party feeling. (Hear, hear.) Be present as it were in spirit at least in all electoral contests; diffuse your own sweet humour as a humour which shall sway the hearts of those over whom you have control. (Cheers.) There is another view that I take of this matter. I hope the time is coming when politics shall tell even more distinctly upon the homes of the working classes than it has done hitherto. (Hear.) I should be delighted at the achievement pointed forward to by John Bright—(cheers)—when there will be in the house of every working man in the kingdom, and of every working woman, a free breakfast table. (Cheers.) I look forward to the time, not perhaps so near, but still not so remote but that possibly it may be witnessed by some even in this assembly—(loud cheers)—when woman will cease to be employed in those works—rough, hard, toilsome, exhausting works—in which she is engaged now in order to contribute her part towards the maintenance of her children. (Hear, hear.) The time will come, I trust, when neither in the factory nor in other great shops of industry will woman's work be needed; when husbands will be sufficiently remunerated for their toil—("Hear, hear," and cheers)—when capital and labour will have become so far reconciled one to another as that men may do the work of men and women may be spared that work in order that they may the more fully preside over the work of the household. (Cheers.) It will be a blessed day for you, and for all women, when such is the case. There will be more refinement of manner, there will be more enjoyment of soul, there will be more enlargement of the intellect, there will be better and purer cultivation of the emotions of the heart. (Cheers.) We were condemned to work; you have been appointed rather to help us who work by your sympathy, your providence, your care, and your love. (Cheers.) I believe that we are not so very far distant from the realisation of this order appointed by Providence, as the present aspect of society would lead us perhaps to suspect. At any rate, let us all work heartily towards that great and benevolent end. For my own part, after what I have received to-night, after all the kindness which you have shown me, in gathering here in your thousands, and after all the expressions of your attachment and your confidence in these gifts which you have given us, and after the patience and attention with which you have listened to those poor sentiments which I have been able under strong emotion to pour out before you, I cannot despair of this one hope that you and I shall be able, if Providence spares us, for many years to come to labour together, heart and hand, first for the enfranchisement in the finest sense of all citizens, and, secondly, for the true elevation of woman to her proper sphere of employment and of pleasure. (Cheers.) And now permit me a closing remark. I thank most heartily the ladies of the committee who have unitedly and enthusiastically laboured in my behalf; I thank all those who have been engaged in collecting the pence of the poor as well as the contributions of the rich towards this result. When I make a proper use of the contents of these bookcases, my mind will be enriched with knowledge and information pertinent to the work which I have to perform; but when I take up this book, containing the names of the contributors to these gifts—3,000 in number—and look down its columns and see its pence, its six-pences, and its half-crowns, my heart will be touched—my best emotions will be kindled. Here I shall go to strengthen my motives for work; there (pointing to the bookcases) I shall go in order to qualify my mind for the discharge of that work. But there is nothing that will be an object of so great pride and gratification to me, nothing which I shall hand down to my children, and they to their children in time to come, which will give me so much pride, in which my heart will so centre, as this book; and I trust and pray God that whenever I look upon it, it may stir up in my mind a stronger determination than ever to devote all my powers of heart, mind, and body to the advancement of those principles with which I, in my deepest convictions, associate the best interests of mankind. (Cheers.) Women of Bradford, be pleased to accept my thanks. May your sympathy ever attend the work in which I am engaged; may my work ever be worthy of your sympathy. In the hour of trial you came forward to sustain me; in the hour of triumph you have come forward to congratulate me. Never has public man been so honoured in this country as I have been honoured in Bradford; and when I die, like Queen Mary, who said that the name of Calais would be written on her heart, so great was her grief at the loss which this kingdom sustained when it was rent from it, so upon my heart will be found, not in characters of grief, but in characters of love and affectionate confidence and trust, engraved at the last—"Bradford women." (Vehement cheers, in the midst of which the honourable gentleman resumed his seat.)

Mr. A. HOLDEN moved a vote of thanks to the Ladies' Committee for bringing about that very great and glorious result. (Applause.)

Mr. J. POLLARD seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

In answer to repeated calls for Mrs. Miall, that lady came to the front of the platform leaning on her husband's arm, and was heartily cheered.

Mr. W. WHITHEAD, in eulogistic terms, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. J. WALLWORK, and carried by acclamation, the ladies waving their hundreds of white handkerchiefs, and cheering vociferously.

The CHAIRMAN, in responding, said: Women of Bradford, accept my grateful thanks for this expression of your opinion. My feeble services are always at your call, you may rest assured. (Loud applause.) I have now the pleasure of calling for the National Anthem. (Applause.) You will sing it with very great zest, as this is the Queen's birthday. (Loud applause.)

The whole company then stood up, and "God save the Queen" was sung with right good will by the vocalists and all present, Mr. G. Hirst playing the organ. Other demonstrations followed, and the proceedings terminating about a quarter-past ten.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The anniversary meeting of this society was held on Monday, at the institution; Sir Roderick I. Murchison, the president, in the chair. After the business had been despatched,

The PRESIDENT proceeded to read his address. After referring to the deaths of many members of the society during the past year, and to several works lately published on geographical subjects, Sir Roderick went on to speak of the intended exploration of the North Pole which has been undertaken by Mr. Lamont, the late member for Buteshire. The most interesting part of the address is that relating to Livingstone.

In a letter from Dr. Kirk, at Zanzibar, dated the 5th of March, it was very disheartening to learn that by no one of the many traders in ivory who had reached the east coast from the country of Uniamuezi had a scrap of intelligence been received respecting him. The theory which I have now formed to account for this entire want of information is that he has quitted the eastern region entirely, and has been following the waters which flow from the western side of the lake. These will lead him necessarily across a large unknown region, to emerge, I trust, at some port on the western coast. In this case, being in a country the inhabitants of which have no intercourse with the Zanzibar territory, we can never more expect to learn any tidings of him from the eastern seaboard. We already know, however, that he had been living with some very hospitable and intelligent Arabs in the interior, and from them he may have learnt that the Lake Tanganyika was really barred up at its northern end, by mountains through which its waters could not flow into the Albert Nyanza of Baker. Or he may, indeed, have satisfied himself by measurement that the altitude of the Tanganyika was of about the same height as that determined by Burton and Speke, and therefore much lower than the Equatorial lakes. In either case, he would abandon the northern search which, at our last anniversary, I believed he might make. Being aware that he was in good health and spirits when he last wrote, and satisfied with his kind reception by the Arab traders, I can see no ground whatever for despondency; and, in the absence of all other information, I suggest that he has been following the waters which are laid down upon the old map of Duarte Lopez, prepared in the end of the sixteenth century, and that he will successfully emerge from Africa on the same coast as that where he terminated his first great traverse of South Africa.

In conclusion, Sir Roderick returned his thanks for being once more elected president of the society, and hoped that he would be found in the chair when his dear friend Dr. Livingstone returned to this country, and to be able to preside for a second time over a grand national Livingstone banquet.

At the evening dinner of the society, at Willis's Rooms, Sir Roderick presided, the Prince of Wales was present, and there was a great gathering on the occasion of learned men, as well as of men more distinguished in society than in science. The Prince, in returning thanks for his health having been drunk, said—

Sir Roderick Murchison has had the kindness to allude to me as a traveller; I can only say that I feel ashamed almost to stand here with the name of a traveller, when I see around me so many distinguished persons who have travelled, I may almost say, from one end of the world to the other. But I cannot be too grateful that my lamented father at an early period gave me an opportunity of travelling and seeing foreign countries; and the same permission being granted to my brother, I feel certain that we have both derived great benefit from seeing those interesting countries which it has been our happiness to visit. No doubt much knowledge and learning may be attained by reading books of foreign travel, but I feel convinced that all those gentlemen who are members of this society will coincide with me when I say that you cannot form so full or favourable an idea of the countries described by reading of them in books as you can by visiting them yourselves. I am greatly flattered and deeply sensible of the kind manner in which Sir Roderick Murchison has mentioned me in connection with the name of one whose presence we must all very much miss this evening—I mean my late travelling companion, Sir Samuel Baker. I cannot but regret that he was forced to leave this country rather suddenly in order to make arrangements for his great and important undertaking, and could not, indeed, take farewell of all his friends. Sir Roderick has stated that I was in some way instrumental in helping Sir Samuel Baker to carry out the enterprise in which he is engaged. His Highness the Viceroy of Egypt, I know, has deeply at heart the great importance of that noble enterprise—to put down slavery on the White Nile, and I need hardly tell you that anything I could do in the matter was done with the utmost pleasure and satisfaction. Such an enterprise must meet the approval not only of every Englishman, but of every philanthropist. There are great difficulties connected with it. These difficulties must be great to any one, and they must still be more trying to a European; but I know Sir Samuel Baker to be a man of energy and perseverance, and whatever the difficulties he may have to encounter, he is certain, if it lies in his power, to attain the end of his mission.

His Royal Highness was afterwards asked to return thanks for the army. In doing so he said:—

I think we have every reason to congratulate ourselves on the efficiency of our army. Many changes have been lately made, and we are told many more are in contemplation; but we must all hope and trust that those changes will be conducive to the efficiency and good state of our army; and that if we should be compelled to go to war—which God forbid!—we shall be able to uphold our honour and the flag of our country as they have been maintained on all previous occasions. With regard to the militia—that is a reserve force, and it is an immense thing to know that the War Office is devoting its attention to that corps, which for some time has remained much neglected. With regard to the volunteers, probably many of you are volunteers yourselves. We all know they are ever ready to come forward, and they have shown great zeal lately in appear-

ing in large masses in different parts of England when occasion has called for these displays. I beg, without wearying you with words, to thank you once more in the name of the Army, Militia, and Volunteers, for the honour of drinking their health.

The staple of the most interesting speeches which followed was the late journey of the Prince of Wales in Egypt. Professor Owen gave a most elaborate account of the scientific observations the journey had enabled him to make; and Mr. W. H. Russell, who was next called upon, said he was glad that the literary results of the expedition were not of a character to require such a long report from himself. Mr. Russell took occasion to express a high sense—and he believed he might speak on behalf of all literary men who had come in contact with the Viceroy of Egypt—of the intelligence, courage, and force with which his Highness was seeking to advance the civilisation and develop the resources of his country, and of the courtesy, condescension, and munificence which he displayed towards men of arts and letters. Sir Francis Grant subsequently returned thanks for "The Royal Academy and the Fine Arts," and Sir Henry Rawlinson proposed the President's health. In acknowledging the compliment, Sir Roderick said it was more than probable that his powers would fail him before his term of office had expired; but when the council and many friends urged him to remain, saying that he must be in the chair at a time when it might be expected that his dear friend Livingstone would return to this country, acquiescence on his part became a sacred duty; and so he hoped to live to see the ardent hopes of the British public realised, and to preside as their president for a second time at a great national Livingstone festival. The last of the toasts proposed was the health of the Duke of Sutherland, who on rising showed the company a specimen of the gold found upon his estate, and said he should be happy to grant licences to diggers at the rate of a pound a field; the holders might, at any rate, depend upon enjoying fresh air and pleasant scenery.

Postscript.

Wednesday, May 26th, 1869.

THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

From M. Forcade de la Roquette's circular to the prefects, issued last evening, it appears that the results of the elections in France are now known in 280 circumscriptions out of 292. One hundred and ninety-six deputies have been elected in districts where the Government either supported the successful candidate or remained neutral. A second ballot will be required in fifty-eight circumscriptions where the required majority has not been obtained. Twenty-six Opposition deputies have been returned; and from ten circumscriptions no accounts have yet been received. In another account it is stated that the returns continue to be in favour of the Government. M. Jules Simon, elected at Bordeaux, has been rejected in the Ardennes. M. Arago and the Legitimist Viscount De Falloux are among the defeated. M. Emile Olivier is elected. M. Pouyer-Quertier, at Rouen, will have to be balloted for. M. Thiers and Jules Favre have not yet been elected in any department.

The *Official Journal* of yesterday evening says:—"At Lille, Saint Etienne, Toulouse, and Marseilles, groups of political agitators have assembled, and walked through the streets singing, but have been rapidly dispersed. Some arrests were made. These exhibitions of popular excitement are in no way of a serious character."

The semi-official journals express the opinion that the principal features of the elections are—the substitution of radical opposition for moderate opposition, the check given to the Orleanist and Moderate Republican candidates, and the general extinction of intermediate shades of opinion.

The *France* says:—"The Empire must not become reactionary, like preceding régimes. Relying upon its Liberal tendencies, it must assert itself in the face of the Revolution, which, while triumphing in the ballot in Paris, is disavowed by the immense majority of the French people."

The Austrian Consul at Leghorn was assassinated in that city on Monday night. It is believed that the blow was really intended for the companion with whom he was walking, the Austrian, General Grenneville, and that its motive was connected with circumstances dating as far back as 1849. The General was wounded in the face.

THE REPRESENTATION OF STAFFORD.—Mr. T. W. Evans, Mr. G. Odger, and Mr. B. Whitworth, three of the Liberal candidates whose names it was proposed at a meeting on Saturday evening to submit to a preliminary ballot, have assented to the proposal, which will now no doubt be carried out. Mr. Edward Jenkins, who arrived last in the field, has made some complaint that his name is not to be included, but no real difficulty is anticipated.

CHURCH CONFERENCE AT SHEFFIELD.—The Conference of Churchmen summoned by the Archbishop of York, the first of a series to be held in the diocese, assembled on Monday at Sheffield. The Archbishop, in opening the proceedings, explained that his object in these Conferences was, that Church people, laymen and clerics, might meet and discuss matters relating to Church interests. He hoped that by frank and cordial interchange of opinion the difficulties of the Church would be diminished. The Archbishop of York made some observations at the evening meeting. He cautioned Churchmen, both lay and cleric, against a feverish excitement touching the

future of the Church. "The calculations of prudence," he said, "which were appropriate to manufacturers, were not requisite for clergymen, who should go about their business unhindered, knowing that, whether the Church as an establishment endures or not, the Church of Christ will endure while the world lasts." The Conference, says the *Sheffield Independent*, appears to have been characterised by general harmony of feeling, and was marked by a strong desire to suppress any attempt to convert it into a meeting for promoting sectional or party views. A speaker who attempted to scold the Ritualists was reminded that the members had not met to discuss either Ritualism or Evangelicalism, but matters concerning the whole Church. Another characteristic of the papers and speeches was their earnest and hopeful tone; there was nothing of dolefulness or despondency as to the future of the Church of England, but a full confidence that if she were reconstituted in accordance with the spirit of the times she had still a noble future before her. The chief suggestions for increasing the influence of the Church were—to make the Convocation a reality instead of a shadow, and to give the laity a voice both there and in the Church affairs of their respective parishes; also that greater efforts should be put forth to attach the working classes and young persons to the Church. It is remarkable that many of the suggestions were really nothing more or less than proposals to adopt modes of polity and government which have been long familiar to various Dissenting bodies, whilst a few speeches were of so pronounced a type that the reader may be pardoned if he momentarily falls into the mistake of supposing that he is reading the report—not of a Church Conference, but of a conference of Liberationists. Mr. Foljambe, M.P., for instance, avowed that some imminent change in the position and constitution of the Established Church was not only not to be deprecated, but rather to be invited, by all who do not merely cling to the letter of bygone institutions, but wish to see the spirit of them carried forward in the only way possible under present circumstances, and the usefulness and efficiency of the Church developed in the fullest manner. The same speaker frankly expressed his desire to see the Church surrender her political position, put an end to political patronage, and abolish what he considered to be the greatest scandal that existed in any Christian Church—what he could, not but call the "infamous" practice of trafficking in the cure of souls, or receiving money for the sale of advowsons. When sentiments like these are boldly uttered by Churchmen themselves in public conference, presided over by an archbishop, we are surely on the eve of important changes—changes, however, doubtless all for the better.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The receipt of wheat from Essex and Kent were limited, but the quality was good. Owing to the rain, the attendance was thin, and sales progressed slowly, in both red and white paroels, at about late rates. With foreign wheat the market was fairly supplied. The inquiry was limited, on former terms. Floating cargoes of wheat were inactive. Other kinds of produce affect sold slowly. The show of barley was moderate. The trade was quiet, at late rates. Malt was dull, at previous quotations. Oats commanded but little attention, at late currencies. The show of samples was small. Beans and peas were quiet, at Monday's prices. For flour the trade was inactive, at late rates.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	330	—	420	—	—
Irish	—	—	—	1,650	—
Foreign	1,480	—	—	7,770	550 aks.

THE CORK MATORALY.—The election of mayor by the Corporation of Cork, in the room of Mr. O'Sullivan, resigned, took place on Friday in the Court-house. The building was densely packed by an excited audience. Two gentlemen were nominated, namely, Mr. Alderman Hegarty, moderate Liberal, and Mr. Councillor Nagle, Nationalist. On a poll twenty-seven members of the Council, including the ex-mayor, voted for Mr. Hegarty, and eight for Mr. Nagle. The former was thereupon declared elected. The audience expressed its strong disapproval, denounced Mr. O'Sullivan as a traitor, and accused him of having sold his country and the people. Mr. O'Sullivan, it is said, tried to explain, but the audience would not hear him, and he was hissed out of the building.

PAPER HOUSES.—We have in former notices referred to the numerous uses to which paper is now being put, especially in America, where hats, buckets, and many other useful articles have for some time been made of it. The *Chicago Journal of Commerce* now informs us that houses are being built of paper, and that they are warmer, and cost one-third less than houses built of wood and plaster after the usual fashion.

VELOCIPEDES FOR RURAL POSTS.—Hunlly, as the centre of a wide district, has a considerable number of country post messengers in connection with its office. Some of them have very long journeys to take; and the Forgue runner has taken the initiative in doing the journey with a velocipede. Last Saturday he began his journey in the new fashion, and did the distance (nine miles) in about an hour. It is a double-seated conveyance, very light, seems easily propelled by two persons (who sit facing one another), and goes at a rapid rate. If the experiment succeeds for some time, our rural runners will very soon anticipate the Government by providing themselves with velocipedes.—*Scotsman*.

TO ADVERTISERS.
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"G. N. W."—The topic with which he deals has been more than once discussed in our columns, and we see no necessity for reviving it at the present time.

"The Publisher begs the suburban and country subscribers to accept his apologies for having substituted on the greater number of copies issued last week a penny postage-stamp for the ordinary impress stamp. The necessity for so doing arose from the fact of the Stamp Office being closed on Whit-Monday and Tuesday.

"A LADY," the daughter of a late Independent minister, who was for thirty years head-master of the Congregational School, Lewisham, Kent, in reiterating her thanks to the subscribers to that institution, and other sympathising friends, begs to acquaint them that her husband and eldest boy sailed for Australia on Saturday, the 23rd inst.—Lewisham, Kent.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1869.

SUMMARY.

THE House of Commons reassembles tomorrow evening, and if hon. members be not too wearied with to-day's fatigues on Epsom Downs, they will plunge into a conflict over the section of Mr. Lowe's Budget which provides for the anticipation of some of the taxes at the beginning of next year. Not only will the Opposition protest against the Chancellor of the Exchequer's expedient for swelling the revenue of the next financial year, but some commercial representatives of the Liberal side may be expected to join them, on the ground that the arrangement will disturb the money market. The majority will, however, be doubtless content to take the Budget as a whole. They have accepted the remissions of taxation; and, on the principle that you cannot have your cake and eat it, they will hardly refuse to endorse the scheme by which the requisite resources are to be obtained.

Mr. Forster's speech at Leeds on the education question explained the principles on which the Endowed Schools Bill is framed, and the object of the Vice-President of the Council in taking up the question. The right hon. gentleman hopes to see every large town rating itself to have one of these reformed grammar schools because it would be seen how good they are; and he expresses his belief that the time will come when in all elementary, national, and British schools, there will be exhibitions by means of which the cleverest boy will be able to ascend to the highest position. In his present Bill, he says, there are two ideas—one, a reform of the endowed schools by a temporary Commission, and the other a good system of examination and the means of raising the educational profession, by an Educational Council. It may be gathered from the comments of the *Times*, and other indications, that neither of the two Bills, into which the measure has been divided, is safe against strenuous opposition in Parliament. Mr. Forster promises, on behalf of the Government, a general Education Bill next year, and the whole tone of his speech at Leeds indicates the breadth and comprehensiveness of his own views, though it may not be possible to embody them at present in legislation.

A great deal of our space is this week taken up with the report of the proceedings at Bradford in celebration of the return of the two members for the borough. Mr. Forster laid his constituents and the country under great ob-

ligation by a speech on the Alabama question, which will probably produce a most beneficial influence on American opinion. It was Mr. Miall's first visit to Bradford since his return during his absence. On Wednesday he addressed his constituents; on Saturday Mr. Forster and himself attended a great out-door demonstration in Manningham Park; and on Monday Mr. Miall and some members of his family were presented with the women's testimonial in St. George's Hall, where some four thousand of the fair sex attended to witness the event, and do honour to their new member. So unique an assembly has not, we believe, been known elsewhere since the memorable women's meeting in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, to adopt a petition to the Queen in favour of a repeal of the Corn Laws.

At the annual meeting of the Aborigines Protection Society—an organisation which very usefully devotes itself to the interests of native races in the British territory abroad—prominent attention was called to the Queensland traffic in Pacific islanders—the abuses of which have become so great, that a public meeting has been held in the capital of the colony to denounce them—and to the hardships of the Basutos of South Africa. This interesting race has received little justice from the Cape authorities; still less from the Boers, who kidnap their children, lay waste their territory, and have utterly destroyed the mission stations in Basutoland. In describing the civilising and religious work carried on in this country by French missionaries, M. Casalis stated that they were expelled from Basutoland three years ago, that their stations, the result of more than twenty years' labour, had been ruined, and that thousands of native Christians were left without European guidance. The case seems to be one to engage the attention of Parliament, and to call for the active sympathy of the Colonial Office. The chairman of the meeting (Mr. Hughes, M.P.) adverted to the remarkable fact that President Grant had accepted the offer of the Society of Friends to send some of its members to the Far West with the view of settling the Indian question, and preventing the renewal of war between the two races, after their own meritorious fashion.

By the decisive majority of 214 to 71 the Spanish Constituent Cortes have resolved to accept a Monarchy. The final debate on the subject was highly exciting. Senor Castellar employed all his eloquence, vainly as the result proved, in favour of Republican institutions.

"The golden crown of Spain has for ever fallen from the brows of the Bourbons," he said. "The Spaniards would not be at the pains to hammer out a new silver diadem for the Montpensiers, but the Regency would be merely a tin crown; what man would accept and consent to wear it?" That man could certainly not be Marshal Serrano, to whose self-esteem the tender of a Regency was no less an offence than an outrage to the common sense of the nation. Strange to say, conspicuous among those who applauded this sentiment was Serrano himself who, willing at first, now shrinks from Prim's contrivance for tiding over immediate difficulties. Hardly less significant was the frank speech of Senor Topete, the Minister of Marine, who avowed his preference for the Duke of Montpensier, but warned the Republicans that if they should render a legal solution impossible, "some insolent bold man" might arise, whose ambition would cut the knot which they were evidently unable to solve. Whether this was a pointed allusion to his colleague in the Government (General Prim) does not clearly appear, but there is reason to fear that there are jealousies and suspicions between Unionists and Progressists which threaten a solution of the national perplexities by other means than either popular suffrage or Parliamentary votes.

THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

FRANCE has once again renewed her legislature under the auspices of the Emperor and his prefects. Universal suffrage, regulated and controlled by authority, is found substantially to produce the results desired by authority. It can surprise no one, therefore, that, despite the waning popularity of Napoleon III., arising from his loss of prestige, and doubts whether he adequately sustains his assumed functions of a second Providence, the new Legislative Body is numerically much the same as the last, that the official candidates have been nearly everywhere returned, and that the Opposition are still a small minority. Nevertheless that assembly will probably prove much less subservient than its predecessor, not from any newborn independence, but because the whole political atmosphere has changed and is changing. It is not

by counting noses that the power of the Empire is to be estimated, but by that impalpable opinion which finds very inadequate expression in the French ballot-box.

Everyone expected that Paris and Lyons, the two chief cities of France, would cast their votes against the Government or the Emperor—for unhappily these are synonymous terms. Yet everyone is disquieted at the actual result. It reveals to the world, in characters of fire, that the Empire does not rest for support on the respect or the affection of the town populations. Though there have been eighteen years of great development and comparative prosperity under the Napoleon *régime*, the dynasty is still fighting for existence, and the Imperial crown is now as then, overshadowed by the Red Republican spectre. Paris and Lyons, and the other large cities, cannot be manipulated like a provincial town, but all that ingenuity could devise has been done, by means of the alteration of electoral boundaries, and popular concessions to the working population, to weaken, if not to set aside, the expected verdict of the electoral body. But all in vain. Though a new generation has sprung into existence since Napoleon III. assumed the purple, these great cities are as ultra-Democratic as in 1848. No compromise with the Empire—is the popular decision. The moderate Democrats, or Parliamentary Liberals—men like MM. Carnot, Jules Favre, Thiers, and Guéroult, who courageously fought the battles of the people in the last Chamber, met with scanty support, or have been actually cashiered. M. Ollivier, who originated the *Tiers Parti*, which aims at reconciling Imperialism with constitutional Government, has been rejected at Paris in favour of an uncompromising Republican, though he has been elected elsewhere. M. Thiers and M. Favre, though well supported in more than one constituency, have been nowhere returned on the first ballot. The moderate Opposition, if by no means extinguished, is deprived of its most brilliant orators. To their appeals to strengthen his dynasty by the concession of responsible Government, the Emperor turned a deaf ear. He gave them neither encouragement nor moral support. It was always contended by his official spokesmen that free criticism in the representative Chamber meant hostility to the Throne; and the Throne, deprived of the assistance of the moderate party, now stands face to face with the Revolution. Napoleon III. has made his own bed, and he must lie on it.

The complete results of this appeal to the French people have not been published. But according to an official circular, the Government have already secured 196 out of 292 seats, though many of the members claimed by them are more or less independent politicians. The Minister of the Interior admits the return of twenty-six Opposition deputies—a clear but small numerical gain on the part of the Left. The conflict, however, is far from over. In no less than fifty-eight circumscriptions, no candidate having obtained the required majority, new elections will be necessary. They are mostly popular constituencies where the Opposition candidates headed the poll on Monday, and a fresh appeal to the electors is likely, in the majority of cases, to prove adverse to the Government. It seems most probable that the Opposition minority of twenty in the last Chamber will be more than doubled in the new one, and that the materials of what is called "a left-centre party" amongst the Imperialist members, are abundant. Marseilles, Bordeaux, and Nantes, have followed the example of Paris and Lyons, in returning by overwhelming majorities members of the most advanced type. The Government can derive little consolation from the present exclusion of their most formidable opponents in the late Legislative Body. They will no doubt all find their way back again into the Chamber on the second ballots, and the Imperial Ministers will have to encounter their former critics, backed up by a number of Democratic opponents. Moreover, many of the official candidates have had to fight stoutly for their seats, and have been returned by slender majorities.

The success of the Government in the agricultural districts of France was so much a matter of course as to have no significance. Here there was no check upon the use of those corrupting influences which a centralised Executive knows so well how to wield. The lavish promise of railways, roads, and other public works, has been effectual in constituencies where official and clerical supremacy has been doubtful. In some places the non-official candidates were well nigh persecuted off the field by the arts of local authorities; in others, the clergy, and sometimes the Bishop, headed the obedient peasantry in marching to the ballot-box; in a still larger number misrepresentation has worked upon rural

apathy and ignorance, and the voters have flocked to the poll not to express their views on current political principles, but to vote down the alleged enemies of the Imperial Throne.

With a majority less loyal and obedient; with a Centre party composed of the ablest and most eloquent exponents of Liberal principles; and with a strong Democratic opposition ready to overturn the Imperial régime, and sustained by an immense majority of the electors in the capital and all the large towns in France; Napoleon III has now to decide whether he will fight on to the bitter end—which would probably, even if he were not dethroned, end in the subversion of representative institutions—or loyally accept a constitutional Ministry subject to Parliamentary control. Personal Government has signally and irretrievably failed to win over the great mass of the operative classes. The Emperor did not give them the chance of deciding whether they would accept him *with* free institutions, and they have given their verdict for naked Republicanism in preference to a thinly-disguised autocracy. Still France can not be said to desire revolution, and the town population exhibit no personal antipathy to their present ruler. Whether Raspail, Gambetta, Bancel, and the other obscure representatives of the Reds, become a power in the new Chamber, or fall into the ranks of a regular Opposition, depends upon the Imperial decision. The *status quo* can no longer be maintained. If France is to go back, the Legislative Chamber must cease to exist; if forward, the representation of the nation must have a distinct right of control over the Executive. There are so many and diverse elements of independence in the new Chamber that mere numerical strength cannot be relied on by the Government. The fear of opposing the Imperial will has been still further weakened by the elections of Sunday and Monday, and the interest of deputies in sustaining a shaken dynasty is less evident than it was. The French Sovereign is still "master of the situation." In a few months he may—according to the policy he adopts—shape it for the advantage of himself and the Empire, or drift on to the shoals of another Revolution.

MR. FORSTER ON THE DIFFICULTY WITH AMERICA.

ALTHOUGH, in the present temper of the people of the United States, Mr. Forster's speech on the Alabama question will, we fear, not be sufficiently appreciated by them, yet his clear and manly expression of opinion will find its way straight to the hearts of his own countrymen. It has, indeed, already done so. Upon the principles which he has avowed, and upon the statement of facts which he presents to the world, England will be prepared to take her stand: for while we are bound to do justice, and to make a national atonement for our wrongdoing, we are equally bound not to suffer injustice, or to submit to the imposition of a grievous wrong upon ourselves. Mr. Forster is pre-eminently qualified, both by his habits of mind and by his past history, to speak the truth on this matter. His opinions are strong and decided, but his moderation of language inspires confidence in his impartiality. During the American war he was, on the highest grounds of public duty, a firm and unwavering champion of the cause of the Union. Mr. Sumner, indeed, appeals to him as an authority; and so pointed was the reference, that he could not well refrain from making known his present views. We may remark that a careful perusal of the full text of Mr. Sumner's speech satisfies us that he does not desire war even as the alternative of the rejection of his demands, but it is equally certain that both the language and the method of his speech justify the almost universal impression which was at first entertained—that he offered an impossible ultimatum, which was in its turn backed by a threat. He alone is to blame for the dangerous misconception which has prevailed. Even just demand, if it be accompanied by a menace, naturally irritates the pride and provokes the resentment of a great nation. If such a speech as Mr. Sumner's were delivered by Mr. Gladstone or Count Bismarck, the belief that war was impending would obtain in every Court in Europe. Republican statesmen should measure their words. If they do not, they may become responsible for evil which they do not meditate.

The most important part of Mr. Forster's speech is that in which he deals with the Queen's proclamation of neutrality. It is the most important because of the prominence which Mr. Sumner gives to that act, and the extreme bitterness with which he denounces it. In his eye, it was fought not only with the most mischievous consequences, but also with

a malignant hostility to the loyal States. Whatever may have been the unfortunate state of feeling among the upper classes of this country at a later period, it is not the less a fact that the Queen's proclamation was issued with no unfair or Mephistophelean intentions towards the United States. It may have been, as Mr. Forster suggests, slightly premature, but at most it could only have been delayed a few weeks. If the Northern and the Southern States were not belligerent, then that phrase has purely an arbitrary meaning, and the Federal Government itself should have abstained from imparting to its antagonists a belligerent character. But it is idle to assert that a proclamation of neutrality could be a hostile act. Mr. Forster states that he not only approved of it at the time, but was anxious that it should be issued without delay, as a means of preventing far greater evils. And the member for Bradford gives a good reason for his patriotic anxiety. "I knew," he says, "that the leaders of the South had sent over to England letters-of-marque, and I was afraid that, unless there were orders issued preventing it, privateers, with letters-of-marque, would sail from our ports without delay." International law, as expounded by American jurists themselves, prevented us from treating people engaged in these nefarious practices as pirates. The blockade of the Southern ports by the Federal Government was an act of war—a recognition by the supreme authority of its intention to deal with the insurgents on the well-established principles of international warfare. And although Mr. Sumner, in making the subtle distinctions with which his speech abounds, asserts that while there was war on land there was no war on the sea, he forgets "that the first four vessels that came out with the flag of the South to prey upon Northern commerce came out of Southern ports, and that they came out a year before any vessel was built in England." This country, then, was clearly not to blame for the proclamation of neutrality—a proclamation which, moreover, was distinctly within our own province as an independent nation. It is worthy of remark that some of the American papers and public men which are the most active in their attempts to fix a criminal responsibility on the British Government for recognising the state of war which existed between the Federal Government and the Southern States, are now eager in their efforts to induce the responsible authorities of their own country not only to recognise the independence of Cuba, but to interfere by force of arms. They allege that as the insurgents desire the abolition of slavery, a consideration of this fact should override the principles of international law. But international law is not a thing to be treated after this unseemly fashion, and although the President and his advisers have not fallen into the trap, the inconsistency of those who advocate such a policy is not the less glaring. Besides, as the Spanish Constituent Cortes have abolished slavery, there is a certain hollowness in the pretext which strips it of its humanitarian illusions. England, however, did not recognise the independence of the South. She resisted all the wiles of the Roebucks and the Lairds. She paid no heed to the pro-Southern sympathies of the Emperor of the French. For this she gets no credit whatever; while a false issue is raised, and an unjust sentence pronounced.

The Alabama question stands upon a different footing, and Mr. Forster in his admirable and luminous speech only expresses the prevailing opinion of his countrymen when he alleges that "there was great neglect in allowing 'her to escape.'" We agreed to refer to arbitration this question and all other differences between the two countries. The attempt to settle the difficulty by an appeal to an impartial tribunal has failed. We are sorry for it, because the value of a good example has thus been lost to the world. But if we were wrong in allowing the Alabama to slip through our fingers, we should frankly acknowledge the fact and offer such restitution as may be equitable. There is nothing really humiliating in adopting this alternative. We shall then have done all that justice can rightfully demand at our hands. Disappointed though we are at the absence of any real appreciation on the part of American politicians of the long suffering sympathy with their cause which was shown by the working classes of this country; at the ease with which, as Mr. Forster remarks, they forget their friends and only remember "the fashionable men," the men of the clubs and the drawing-rooms; and at the readiness with which they pass over the stoppage of the steam rams, while they remember only the escape of the Alabama—we yet cannot believe that they desire to humiliate the mother country, or to plunge two great and kindred nations into the horrors of a fratricidal war.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST INTEMPERANCE.

Not least important among the leading characteristic social features of the day is the constantly increasing magnitude and influence of the temperance movement, especially in relation to the various religious organisations of this country. Whatever diversities of opinion may exist with respect to the policy or utility of the Permissive Bill principle, on the merits and demerits of total abstinence as contrasted with those of moderation, there are to be found few to dispute the deplorable fact that to the large amount of intemperance existing in these islands is attributable much of the pauperism, disease, and crime which press so heavily on our national energies, and baffle the most carefully devised remedial measures propounded by our ablest statesmen. Whether this miserable and degrading vice is on the increase, is a matter which has occasioned considerable controversy; but when we contrast the present social habits of the great mass of the nation with those prevalent towards the close of the last century, it is impossible to resist the inference that, although there exists amongst us a vast amount of habitual drunkenness and attendant improvidence, there is distinctly perceptible, especially among the more educated and intelligent sections of the industrial classes, an improvement in this respect. A hundred years ago the English working-man, like those above him in social position, was the slave of drink, thinking of nothing else, living for nothing else. We have but to take up a volume of caricatures by Gilray to perceive how completely brutalised, how utterly lost to all sense of decency, the various classes of that period had become. It seemed as if the whole nation had slavishly prostrated itself at the shrine of Bacchus. The arts and literature of the Georgian era were literally saturated with drink. In the famous portraits by Reynolds of the Dilettanti Club, the great authors, artists, philosophers, and scientific men of the day, are depicted as partaking of steaming bowls of punch, or with wine-glasses in their hands. As to the drinking habits of the million, they found an unsparring exponent in the pencil of Hogarth, whose pictures of "Gin-lane" and "Beer-street" may possibly have suggested to George Cruikshank the idea of "The Worship of Bacchus," which now adorns the walls of South Kensington. But how changed is all this! Imagine the sensation which would be produced at the present day, within the walls of the Royal Academy, by the appearance of a picture representing Mr. Gladstone or Mr. Bright as presiding over some bacchanalian revelries! The unlucky artist would be sent to Coventry in no time. That which was regarded as an honour in the last century has now come to be considered a disgrace. In this one circumstance alone we have an unmistakable indication of national progress in habits of sobriety. And as with the upper ranks of society, so with the lower. It is now possible to walk in a public park or garden frequented by the industrial classes, and not meet a single case of intoxication. The outcry raised by the artisans of East London against the proposed establishment of beerhouses in one of their favourite recreation grounds testifies most forcibly, most convincingly, to the advance which a taste for sobriety has made amongst them.

Much of this is unquestionably due to the ceaseless exertions of the numerous temperance organisations which are to be found in all parts of the kingdom. Much is also due to the increased development of national education, the existence of a cheap press, and the improved legislative principles which have gradually come into action since the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832. That measure was in some respects the parent of the present temperance movement, for by awakening the dormant intellectual abilities of the masses, it caused them to pay increased attention to the social evils which surrounded them. It was, in this country at least, of humble origin. A few Lancashire working-men were the founders of that movement, which has now become recognised as one of the great social forces of the present day. We need not trace the history of the temperance cause through the various stages of popular indifference, ridicule, and persecution, which preceded its present extensive hold on the public mind. Its advocates might often allow their zeal to outrun their discretion; their arguments might frequently be pushed to most ludicrous extremes, but their objects were too useful, too necessary, to be impeded by difficulties of this character. The reclamation of our drunkards was a work too important to be laughed or hooted down. Consequently the temperance movement began to prosper, to count its followers, not merely by thousands, but by tens of thousands. But with success

came the inevitable divisions, from which no cause seems wholly to be free. There grew up in the great temperance body two powerful parties, having one object in common, but seeking to gain it by different methods. These rival parties are now respectively represented by the National Temperance League and the United Kingdom Alliance. The League pin their faith to the principle of moral suasion, and hold that by training people to resist temptation, the habits of sobriety thus acquired would prove permanent in character. They argue that the present trade in beer and spirits is merely the result of the demand-and-supply principle. "Lessen the demand," say they, "by inducing the people to become teetotallers, and the supply will fall away of itself."

The Alliance, on the other hand, would withdraw the temptation. According to their teaching, the supply fosters the demand, and the greater the facilities of supply, the more extensive becomes the demand. They, therefore, seek to suppress the supply by procuring a prohibition of the liquor traffic. The indirect results of the labours of these two organisations are obvious: those of the League tending, by the influence of individual example, each member being an abstainer, to promote personal habits of sobriety; and those of the Alliance, by directing attention to the legislative aspect of the case, preparing the public for a radical reform of our existing licensing system. A third organisation, the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union, has for its aim the training of children in habits of temperance, it being found from experience far easier to acquire such habits when young than in after life. Besides these, there are several large temperance organisations, the head-quarters of which, like those of the United Kingdom Alliance, are in the provinces. Foremost among these is the British Temperance League, the oldest of all temperance associations in the United Kingdom, and dating from 1835, in which year it was established, under another name, in Manchester. Then there are the West of England and South Wales Temperance League, East of England Temperance League, North of England Temperance League, Lancashire and Cheshire Band of Hope Union, Bradford Band of Hope Union, and numerous similar associations, each representing a considerable number of small societies, the members of which form an aggregate of many thousands. The Episcopalians also have a large and powerful organisation of their own, which includes the names of several hundred clergymen. The Congregationalists, Baptists, Welshmen, Roman Catholics, and other denominations, have likewise found their ranks largely permeated by the temperance element, especially in connection with the various Sunday-schools, to which Bands of Hope are now becoming regarded as indispensable adjuncts. In fact, the cordial manner in which temperance doctrines are becoming accepted by the religious world constitutes one of the most remarkable social phenomena of the present time. It would be premature to attempt to predict the future of this significant and suggestive movement, which presents numerous features deserving of careful study, but there can be no doubt that it is destined to exercise a far more considerable amount of influence than is at present dreamed of, on the social habits and customs of the people. It may fail in banishing the glass from the dining-room table, or in closing the doors of our numerous beershops and gin-palaces, but it will certainly assist in rendering us a more sober nation, and if it achieves this result, it will not have existed in vain; on the contrary, it will have earned for itself an honourable place in the annals of our social history.

PICKED UP FROM THE STREETS.

A very successful experiment has recently been commenced with the view of attempting to rescue a few of our juvenile street vagrants from their life of misery, and transform them into better children. Despite the large number of ragged-schools, shoeblack brigades, and other similar institutions in the metropolis, there are yet to be found in the London streets thousands of children utterly destitute, friendless, and homeless, living as they best can, and helplessly drifting into a career of beggary and crime. There is scarcely one of these but has some sad history to relate, for many are orphans, some are motherless, but most are the neglected offspring of drunken parents. It is vain to expect any diminution in the amount of our national pauperism and crime until something is done to rescue these little waifs and strays from their lot of sorrow and despair. Last summer Mr. R. C. Morgan, of the *Revival*, Mr. George Holland, of the ragged-schools in George-yard, Whitechapel, Miss Annie Macpherson, a lady

well known for her labours among the little matchbox-makers of Bethnal-green, and a few other kind-hearted persons, determined to see what could be done in the matter. The result has been the establishment of several homes, known as "Revival Refuges," the largest and most recent being that in Commercial-street, Whitechapel, where a large building, formerly used as a cholera hospital, five storeys in height, has been fitted up in a plain but substantial manner for the requisite purpose. There is not the least attempt at show, every penny being economically expended in the most useful manner. The number of children now in the different homes is about 150, the number being regulated by the amount of means in the possession of the committee. The sum required for each child is 6*l*. 10*s*. per annum, or 2*s*. 6*d*. per week. One of the homes is in Grove-street, South Hackney, close to Victoria Park. It is an old-fashioned, but cheap and commodious dwelling, eminently suited for the purpose to which it has been devoted. Twenty-five boys are now in the home. Some of these have slept about the streets in carts, in empty boxes, in casks, in passages. Some are sent out daily to employment and earn a small sum weekly, and thus they are being fitted to occupy respectable positions in society. Three work at printing. One is at a shoemaker's. His employer is so pleased with him that he promises to take him as an apprentice. A fifth is working at a carpenter's. His master has promised to teach him the trade. A sixth is an errand-boy at a butcher's. Nineteen receive instruction in the schoolroom daily, from nine to twelve. The afternoon is devoted to industrial employment, such as making their own clothes, chopping wood, and digging. Since the home has been opened, one boy has been apprenticed to a baker and confectioner for two years and a half, without a premium. One has been sent to sea; and one has been delivered to his friends, who have undertaken to send him to his father, whose residence they have discovered. The girls are trained as domestic servants, when old enough; a separate home being provided for children under ten years of age. The scheme is so thoroughly practical and efficient in all its details, that the work bids fair to assume very large proportions, and be productive of much good. Mr. Holland says, speaking of his ragged-school children, "Often, when surrounded by 500 of such children, I have thought I could see written on their care-worn faces, 'Help us!' and I have looked heavenward and prayed, 'Lord! save, or they perish.' The new movement is a necessary sequel to that which has resulted in sowing ragged-schools broadcast throughout the land, and will probably act as a pioneer in the solution of the vexed question respecting the prevention of our crime and pauperism. Certainly Mr. Morgan, Mr. Holland, Miss Macpherson, together with their numerous fellow-workers, deserve every assistance which can be offered them.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The elections to the new Legislative body took place on Sunday and Monday throughout France. The greater part of the elections in the provinces, as far as they are known, are in favour of the Government. In Paris the result was adverse to the Government and dynasty. M. Thiers was beaten at Lille and Poitiers, and M. Glais-Bizoin at Saint-Brieux. The following are the returns for the Department de la Seine (Paris):—

1ST CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Gambetta (Democrat) 21,374
M. Carnot (Moderate Opposition) 9,142

2ND CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Thiers 13,333
M. Devinck (Official) 10,404

M. Dalton 8,721

Second ballot necessary.

3RD CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Bancel (Republican) 22,647
M. E. Olivier (Moderate Opposition) 12,849

4TH CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Ernest Picard (Democrat) 24,400
M. Deniere (Official) 7,900

5TH CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Raspail (Republican) 14,639
M. Garnier-Pagès (Democrat) 14,133

M. Frederic Levy (Official) 1,900

M. George Baudin (Radical) 97

Second ballot necessary.

6TH CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Jules Ferry (Democrat) 12,916
M. Augustin Cochin (Official) 12,470

M. Adolphe Gueroult (Opposition) 4,851

Second ballot necessary.

7TH CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Jules Favre (Opposition) 12,023
M. Henri Rochefort (Republican) 10,083

M. Cantagrel (Democrat) 7,437

M. Savart 4,583

Second ballot necessary.

8TH CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Jules Simon (Democrat) 30,305
M. Lachaud 8,743

9TH CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Eugene Pelletan (Opposition) 23,410
M. Bouley 9,816

At Lyons M. Raspail and M. Bancel (ultras) have been elected. Some of the polls for the other departments were as follows:—

BOUCHES-DU-RHONE.

1ST CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Gambetta 8,600
M. de Lesseps 4,500
M. Thiers 3,500

Ballot necessary.

4TH CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Bournat (Official) 14,000
Jules Favre 9,800

Esquires 6,300

M. Marie 4,400

Ballot necessary.

LOIRE INFERIEURE.

2ND CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Gaudin (Official) 12,000
M. Guépin 11,600

M. De Lareinty 5,900

M. Prevost-Paradol 1,950

Ballot necessary.

AUBE.

1ST CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Argence (Official) elected 20,800
Casimir Perier 15,100

COTES DU NORD.

General de la Motte Rouge (Official) 18,800

elected 12,400

JAR.

2ND CIRCUMSCRIPTION.

M. Poëse Puyrag (Official) elected 19,300

M. Emmanuel Arago 11,400

On Sunday evening several groups of people paraded the streets of Marseilles shouting, "Long live the Republic!" All the shops were closed in consequence, but tranquillity was speedily restored.

ITALY.

The Italian Senate has passed the law abolishing the privilege hitherto enjoyed by the clergy in Italy of exemption from the conscription. Ninety-seven members voted, and of these sixty-seven were in favour of the measure and thirty against it, the majority thus being thirty-seven. The *Nazione* speaks of this decision as a fresh and decisive victory of the principle of the equality of all citizens before the law. In 1865 the same bill was thrown out by the Italian Senate.

SPAIN.

The debate in the Cortes on the Monarchical clause of the new Constitution, on Thursday, was not only important, but very exciting. Castellar, who was loudly cheered during his speech against monarchy, adjured Serrano not to accept a regency, and asked Topete for what purpose he made the September revolution. Topete replied that he wished to save the Queen and the dynasty, but, after the expulsion of both, he opposed all restoration. He expressed the opinion that the Duke de Montpensier was the most desirable solution of existing difficulties, and he warned the assembly that, by making every solution impossible, they would open the way for some insolent daring man to undertake to cut the knot they were unable to untie. Towards the close of the sitting, Señor Ayala, Minister of the Colonies, roused the anger of the Republicans by declaring that they had no share in bringing about the revolution. Subsequently, Señor Ayala tendered his resignation, which was accepted. The Monarchical clause was carried on a division by 214 to 71 votes.

Admiral Topete is to succeed Señor Ayala as Minister of the Colonies *ad interim*.

At the close of the sitting of the Spanish Cortes on Saturday, ninety-four clauses of the draft Constitution had been passed. The clause proclaiming the irremovability of the judges was adopted on Monday.

Señor Ortez, Minister of Justice, has brought in a bill permitting civil marriages, and legalising those already contracted.

The *Correspondencia* says that when the Constitution has been agreed to the Cortes will at once proceed to appoint a regency. It adds, however, the extraordinary statement that the discussion of the candidature to the throne will not be opened before October next.

A Lisbon despatch announces a fresh candidate for the throne of Spain, Prince Augustus of Portugal, brother of the King. The despatch adds that he will marry a daughter of the Duke of Montpensier, who will shortly be eighteen years of age. Prince Augustus was born in 1847, and is therefore twenty-two years old.

AMERICA.

A riot between the police and the people occurred at New Orleans on Wednesday. Several persons were more or less severely wounded. The troops restored order.

From the New York papers of the 13th instant we learn that some excitement had been caused in New York and Washington by the publication in the former city on the previous day of a cable telegram, stating that an effort was being made to form an alliance between England, France, and Spain, against the United States, on account of its foreign policy. The news was, however, pretty generally discredited.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY

The Emperor Francis Joseph has given his sanction to the Public Schools Bill.

The German Customs Parliament is convoked for the 3rd of June.

The King of Prussia is somewhat indisposed. He is about visiting Hanover and Bremen.

On the subject of the dispute with the United States, it is stated that almost the whole Continental press sides with England.

The Supreme Court at Pesth has decided to liberate Prince Karageorgevitch on bail, in order to prepare his defence, in connection with the assassination of the Prince of Servia.

The repudiation of the treaty between the United States and Denmark for the sale of the Danish islands in the West Indies is said to have caused much irritation at Copenhagen.

M. Mazzini has issued an eloquent address in defence of himself against recent attacks by members of the Italian Government. He has left Lugano for London. The state of his health is declared to be satisfactory.

DUELLING IN ITALY.—A society has been established in Florence for the purpose of putting down duelling by instituting a tribunal of honour for the adjustment of disputes at present settled by arms.

It is reported from Calcutta that the widow Begum of Nawab Kurreem Shah, a brother of Tippoo Sultan, died on Saturday night, the 17th April. She had arrived at the ripe age of 114. She was married in the lifetime of Hyder Ali.

An official telegram received in London on Saturday from Adelaide states that the expeditionary party sent to North Australia, arrived at Port Darwin on February 5. They send word that there is a good port, good land, good water, and a healthy climate.

General Lee, while in Washington, steadfastly refused to admit newspaper correspondents to "interviews," at which they expected to report his sentiments on things in general as developed in private conversation. The correspondents were much disgusted, but they published the General's conversations all the same.

POLYNESIAN LABOUR IN QUEENSLAND.—A very numerously attended meeting was held at the School of Arts, Brisbane, on March 8th, for the purpose of passing resolutions condemnatory of the introduction of Polynesians into Queensland. A large proportion of those present consisted of working men. The meeting appeared to be unanimously in favour of the opinions expressed in the resolutions. His worship the mayor (Mr. J. Hardgrave) occupied the chair.—*Brisbane Courier*, March 23.

MR. PEABODY.—Letters received at Washington from London state that the health of Mr. George Peabody is not good, and that he is anxious to return to his home in America, and there end his days. Mr. Peabody has written to the town of Georgetown, Massachusetts, stating that it is his intention to supply all the funds needed to sustain the public library which he had given to the town, and also presenting 4,000 dollars towards the permanent fund.

SUNDAY IN PARIS.—It is announced in most of the French papers that the principal shops in Paris will henceforth be closed on Sundays. This important social reform is not the result of a religious movement, but has been brought about by the same kind of agency which, in England, has introduced the Saturday half-holiday. The Society of the Employés de Commerce inform the public that, with few exceptions, all the linendrapers, vendors of ready-made apparel, silk-mercers, and hosiery of Paris have consented to close their shops on Sunday, and the employés "appeal to the goodwill of the public to aid them in making the measure general."

THE AUSTRIAN CONCORDAT.—It would seem that the Concordat has virtually been abolished in Austria. A secular priest, the editor of an Ultramontane paper, was recently sentenced to a term of imprisonment for attacks against the law. This sentence has been confirmed by the supreme court of Vienna, and the punishment will be carried out in an ordinary gaol, notwithstanding a clause in the Concordat which stipulates that a priest can only be imprisoned in a religious house. Cardinal Rauscher interceded on behalf of the offender, and claimed for him this privilege, but the Minister of Justice referred the Cardinal to the Constitution and the decision of the supreme court, and declared that the provisions of the Concordat had been abrogated, and were null and void.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY.—The American advices refer to the probabilities of traffic on the Pacific Railway. It appears that the preparations making contemplate a weekly emigrant train at the beginning, to be increased as the demand may require, and at cheap rates. But those cheap rates will not be as low as they have been by the Isthmus route, emigrant tickets by which have been as low as 10*l.* from New York to California. The charges at present contemplated by the railway are approximately estimated as follows:—From New York to Chicago, 960 miles, 3*l.* 15*s.*; Chicago to Omaha, 496 miles, 3*l.* 10*s.*; Omaha to Salt Lake, 1,070 miles, 8*l.*; Salt Lake to San Francisco, 775 miles, 15*l.* 10*s.*; total, 3,299 miles, 30*l.* 1*s.* In the statement of distances, adding six miles for ferriage from Oaklands to San Francisco gives a total of 3,305 miles. It is said, however, that the company has promised to reduce rates after the 1st of July next, when the cost of a through ticket will probably not exceed 23*l.* The cost of meals and other incidental expenses are estimated at a total of 5*l.* for the trip, and most third-class passengers would lessen this item by furnishing their own supplies. "At these rates," it is observed, "to say nothing of the labour and fatigue of a rail-

road ride of 3,000 miles, there will not, in the nature of things, be many pleasure-travellers, and there is much diversity of sentiment as to the amount of freight, local or through."

MUSIC.

AN AMATEUR CONCERT was given last Friday evening at the Hall, Store-street, in aid of the North London Consumption Hospital. There was an excellent string band of some fifteen performers, (besides flutes, trumpet, trombone, and drums), conducted by Mr. Evans, the well-known harmonium builder. A noticeable feature was the use of four of Mr. Evans's instruments, called "Orchestrion di Camera," which were ably played by the Misses Evans, as substitutes for the oboes, clarinets, and other instruments, as essential to the legitimate effect of a full band. The result was a very fair performance of the overtures to "Massaniello," "Fra Diavolo," and "Zampa," besides Mendelssohn's "Cornelius" march, in which last the young gentleman who played the trombone appeared to considerable advantage. An harmonium quartet by the ladies already mentioned, and a pianoforte solo by one of them, were well received, as were also a vocal solo and duet by performers whose names were not announced. There was some excellent part-singing by a choir of about forty voices, the "Cough and the Crow" (given with orchestral accompaniment), being encored, though the bass solo was taken by a gentleman with a sufficiently sonorous voice but with rather defective ideas of time. Macfarren's "May-day" was given entire, the young lady who appeared as principal soprano earning a well-deserved encore in the song "Beautiful May." The room was well filled, and we trust that the funds of the hospital were materially benefited.

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" will be given for the last time this season at Exeter Hall, by the National Choral Society, on Wednesday, June 2. Miss Arabella Smyth, Miss Palmer, Mr. G. Perren, and Mr. Lander will be the principal vocalists; conductor, Mr. G. W. Martin.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

Her Majesty and family have been making daily excursions in the neighbourhood of Balmoral.

Prince Arthur has arrived at Balmoral on a visit to her Majesty.

The Prince of Wales visited Sandringham on Friday to see how the works on the house and grounds are going on. It is thought the place will not be in a state which will allow the Prince and Princess to spend any time there this summer.

The Prince of Wales is expected to attend Epsom races this day.

The *Gaulois* says that the Prince of Wales, before leaving Paris, invited the Prince Imperial to visit England, and that the Emperor Napoleon accepted the invitation.

The London correspondents of the *Glasgow Morning Herald* and of the *Western Daily Press* state, on reliable authority, that the difficulty with reference to the income of the Prince of Wales has been got rid of by the Queen agreeing to increase it from 35,000*l.* to 40,000*l.* a year out of her own private purse.

The health of Princess Christian having improved within the last few days, her Royal Highness, with Prince Christian and family, will shortly join her Majesty at Balmoral.

In a letter to Earl Spencer, the Home Secretary has conveyed her Majesty's thanks to the people of Ireland for the attachment to her person and family as manifested in the reception lately accorded to Prince Arthur on his visit to that country.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF DENMARK has arrived in London, on a visit of a month or six weeks to the Prince and Princess of Wales. The marriage of the Crown Prince with the Crown Princess of Sweden, which it is hoped will unite the two northern kingdoms into one strong Scandinavian Power, will take place in July next.

The Viceroy of Egypt, on his visit to England, will be housed at Buckingham Palace.

Mr. Burke, private secretary to Mr. Chichester Fortescue, has been appointed Under-Secretary for Ireland.

It is stated by a London correspondent that Mr. Chichester Fortescue, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, is to be raised to the peerage.

The House of Commons reassembles to-morrow (Thursday), when it is expected there will be a pitched battle on that part of the Budget which relates to the anticipation of next year's taxes, to which many persons, on both sides, entertain great objection. It is believed, however, that Mr. Lowe will carry his point by a sufficient majority.

Ministers, it is stated, anticipate a defeat if they allow Mr. Layard to press his Courts of Justice New Site Bill.

The *Law Times* understands that the Attorney-General has amended the Bankruptcy Bill by abolishing the district courts altogether and at once.

Sir Samuel Baker has left London on his African journey. It is known that he intends to traverse the district watered by the White Nile, and that he will endeavour, by such means as may be afforded him, to bring the people of that region more within the influence of civilisation.

Owing to some "difficulty" with the Board of Trade, the members of the Liverpool Local Marine Board have resigned *en masse*.

The Rev. Benjamin Speke was married on Wednesday to Miss Caroline Sophia Fuller, of Neston Park, at the parish church of Neston, in Wilts. The church was crowded in every part, and both it and the village were very tastefully decorated. The bridal presents were numerous and costly, and they included several tokens of regard for the bride from the poor of Neston.

The fiftieth anniversary of her Majesty's birthday was on Monday celebrated in the usual manner. In the metropolis flags were hoisted from the churches and public buildings, troops were paraded, and Royal salutes were fired. The day was similarly observed at Windsor.

The Right Hon. John Bright has been staying at Llandudno.

Lord Stanley of Alderley, and Sir Robert Clifton, M.P., are lying in a dangerous state.

The two sons of Bishop Colenso have arrived in England. One will proceed to Oxford and the other to Cambridge University.

The decease of Mr. Peter Cunningham, the well-known antiquarian writer, is announced.

Miscellaneous.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALMONTIAN-ROAD, N.—During the past week 1,256 applications have been attended to, including those of 357 new patients.

NORTH NORFOLK ELECTION PETITION.—Mr. Justice Blackburn decided on Monday that the sitting members, Messrs. Lacon and Walpole, both Conservatives, were duly elected. He also decided that there was no ground for departure from the usual practice as to costs, which the petitioner must pay.

INFANTICIDE.—A lecture on this subject will be delivered by Dr. Lankester, F.R.S., Coroner for Middlesex, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Thursday evening, the 3rd of June, at half-past seven o'clock. The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury will preside.

LOCAL TAXATION.—The huge Blue-book just issued upon local taxation in England and Wales shows that it now amounts to 16*l.* per cent. upon the annual rateable value of the country, and 15 per cent. upon the gross estimated rental. The total now amounts to 16,660,459*l.*, or nearly double the cost of the civil administration of the United Kingdom. Of this enormous sum the poor-rate is 11,061,502*l.*, or nearly the cost of the army.—*Spectator*.

COLONIES AND MOTHER COUNTRY.—Sir George Grey, late Governor of New Zealand, presided on Wednesday at the Society of Arts, over a lecture delivered by Mr. Robinson, a member of the Legislative Council of Natal, on the progress of the British colonies. He showed that in 1851 the total imports of Great Britain amounted to 142,000,000*l.*, of which only 20,000,000*l.* came from her colonies. In 1860 74,000,000*l.* were colonial shipments. Mr. Robinson had no hesitation in expressing his belief that England, in her colonies, possessed the truest and most lasting sources of national greatness that any people had yet enjoyed. He was convinced that this country was not only bound in honour to retain her colonial possessions, but that it was her interest to do so. In the discussion which followed, Sir George Grey expressed similar views.

DEGREES AT THE UNIVERSITIES.—Professor Fawcett writes, in reply to a remark by Mr. Forster that a man could not obtain his degree until he was twenty-two:—"Allow me to state that there is nothing whatever to prevent a man obtaining his degree at twenty, or even an earlier age, if he passes the requisite examinations. It has frequently happened that the highest honours have been obtained by men much younger than twenty-two. With regard to Mr. Forster's complaint about the length of time a man is obliged to spend at the Universities, I will only remark that during the last few years this time has been considerably shortened. When I first went to Cambridge, an undergraduate who entered in October could not obtain his degree until the following January three years; now he is admitted to his degree in the following June two years. If the time of residence is still further shortened, one of two things must occur—either the University examinations must be made much less difficult or boys must be sent up from school better prepared than at present."

THE TORNADO AFFAIR.—On Saturday was published a Foreign Office telegram announcing the determination of the Spanish Government to maintain its former decision with regard to the case of the Tornado as definitive. The correspondence which had taken place upon the subject antecedent to the receipt of that telegram has also been published. In a despatch dated April 3, Sir John Crampton informed the Earl of Clarendon that the Spanish Government declined to admit that any indemnity was due to the crew of the Tornado, or to the widow of Mr. Macpherson, on account of their detention, or on account of their alleged ill-treatment by the Spanish authorities; and he encloses a translation of a memorandum in which the reasons for arriving at such a decision are set forth. The crew of the Tornado and Mr. Macpherson were, according to the memorandum, rightly considered in the light of prisoners of war, and they were treated with kindness during their detention, which was not, as it was supposed to have been, owing to the necessity of taking their evidence, but to the fact that some of the men were actually engaged in the military service of Chili, while all were acting in open hostility to Spain. "Out of consideration for England," however, most of the crew being British subjects, the Spanish Government set the men at liberty.

Literature.

DR. HALLEY'S
PURITAN AND NONCONFORMIST
LANCASHIRE.*

FIRST NOTICE.

We imagine that there are few persons who will be disappointed with this work, and that most of its readers will be somewhat surprised at its contents. The latter is our own feeling. With one or two exceptions, our county Nonconformist histories have not only not been well done, but they have been characterised equally by intellectual narrowness, and by utter poverty of style and treatment. We are not, of course, surprised that a work by Dr. Halley should not be narrow or poverty-stricken, but we confess that we were not prepared for a book of exactly the kind which the author has now given to the public. It is not only that the information which it contains must be so thoroughly new to most readers, but because Dr. Halley has chosen to treat his subject with such strength and breadth, that, having in memory some other histories, we have experienced a refreshing surprise at the contents and the nature of this. It will, we think, strike most literary men that this book is the work of a man, not only of broad religious, but of broad intellectual sympathies. These sympathies touch nearly all the life of the people, so that in treating of Puritanism and Nonconformity, Dr. Halley treats, to a great extent, of the whole life of Lancashire. This is more conspicuous in the earlier than it is in the latter portions of the work, for the latter portions are somewhat sketchy and fragmentary. The style is one of great purity, robustness, and vigour. Here and there, also, there are broad flashes of humour, and everywhere, we need not say, a prodigious Lancashire partiality. As we read, we are almost coaxed into the belief that it must be better for a man to have been born in Lancashire than anywhere else on the face of the globe, and that all the men are as superior to other men as all the women are more bewitching than other women.

This work commences with an introductory chapter, which gives a general view of the pre-Reformation period of Lancashire history. This chapter, as are most that follow it, is full of topographical and antiquarian lore, and of admirable personal sketches. An elaborately written chapter on the Reformation in Lancashire follows, and here, as elsewhere, a great deal of hitherto buried history has been dug out, and names that have long been lost to memory are once more made almost as familiar to us as they were to our ancestors of 300 years ago. We are glad to see in this chapter, as we also see in reference to a subsequent period, how conclusively Dr. Halley vindicates the memory of the early Puritans from that strange reputation for sourness and narrowness which historians generally have been accustomed to give to them. There is scarcely an atom of good ground for this reputation. On the contrary, as is nearly always the case with men of good conscience and pure life, none could have been more cheerful, or more disposed for games of nearly all sorts, than these maligned Puritans. The author writes, however, with just discrimination:—

"Whatever other objections the Puritans may have had to the sports and festivities of their time, the principal ground of their opposition was undoubtedly religious. They looked upon the festivals as the life and strength of Popery in the rural parishes. The morris-dancing, the rush-bearings, the guising, the May-bowars, the revellings of the wakes, were all connected with Church festivals and anniversaries, directed by priests, observed in consecrated places, and interwoven with ecclesiastical observances. On this account, rather than from a dislike to amusement, the Puritans cried, 'Touch not, taste not, handle not.' Many of the Lancashire Puritans, and even some of their preachers, as we shall hereafter see, were mighty hunters, keen anglers, fond of hawking, of shuffle-board, of bowls, of billiards, and what may surprise their descendants, of baiting the badger, of throwing at the cock, and even occasionally of private theatricals. These men going home from the cocking or the otter-hunt, would be shocked at the sight of a rush cart or May-pole. The reason is obvious; the objection was not to the amusement, but to the religious association. The notion that old Lancashire Puritans, many of whom had their times and places for playing billiards and shuffle-board, were gloomy, austere misanthropical people, is one of the popular errors of the day."

A great race, it must be acknowledged, were those old Puritans of Lancashire, of whom John Bradford stood at the head, and for whose doctrines George Marsh was a martyr. Then came another generation, treated under the chapter on "Puritanism." It is striking here to observe the "good connections" of the

best sections of religious society in England at this period. The preachers were men of culture, as well as learning and popular power, and their adherents included some of the principal of the nobility, and a considerable portion of the landed gentry. Dr. Halley's genealogical sketches of the old Puritan laymen are a conspicuous feature in his work. They were a fine race, whether in battle or in devotion, and, as a Lancashire man, Dr. Halley glories in them. But the preachers were the leaders. They seem to have been godly but cheerful men, and some of them of rare power, especially of that high moral power which comes, and comes alone, from a transparently pure and devout life.

Perhaps the most valuable chapter in this work is the one that follows, on "Presbyterianism," where the nature of the Presbyterian Establishment in Lancashire is given with a fulness and interest which no author has ever equalled. It may, indeed, be said, without exaggeration, that Dr. Halley has, in this section, written a new chapter in the history of the Commonwealth and the Protectorate of England. What has hitherto been scattered in fragments, in tracts, proceedings, journals, diaries, sermons, and lives, he has gathered into one consistent whole. Occupying as it did so large a space in the religious life of England itself, it can scarcely be said that the author in devoting more than half of the first volume of this work to the history and character of the Presbyterian Establishment, has done more than he should have done, although the subsequent parts of the book suffer from the fulness of this. This history does not give us any higher idea of the Presbyterianism of the early part of the seventeenth century than we have been accustomed to entertain. Admirable and almost unequalled men it possessed, and very vivid are Dr. Halley's sketches of these men, especially of Heyricke and Newcome; but established although it was, and largely as it was supported both in numbers and material resources, Presbyterianism did not work smoothly even in Lancashire. As the author says—"Presbyterianism, somewhat proud of its newly acquired position, and haughty in the use of its privileges, had no small share of the troubles and inconveniences which the officials of every religious establishment must feel, unless it be like the Papacy in its strength, able to control the civil power, or like Prelacy in state livery, willing to obey its commands. Presbyterianism was like neither. It assumed an authority which it could not regulate, and was therefore compelled to submit to the control of the State to prevent the abuse of that assumed authority. Its assumption was arrogant, and its submission humiliating. While in other respects it worked exceedingly well, in its connections and collisions with the civil power it worked exceedingly ill." It was when Presbyterianism was at its height that the Independents and "Sectaries" began to appear. Dr. Halley sketches the beginning and the course of his own denomination with great faithfulness, and does not allow it to have been on the whole much more tolerant than the sects which had hitherto been dominant. This chapter is enlivened, as the book often is, with sketches of the battles of the period, in which we must do the author the justice to say that he exceeds some military historians. They are written with a martial ardour which it would be hardly possible to surpass, and unavoidably suggest to the reader that if its author were not what, to the honour of our Nonconformity, he is, he would have made an admirable general. We refer especially to the eloquent description of the sieges of Lathom, and, in the second volume, to the siege of Preston. In all these our Nonconformist ancestors took the most conspicuous part. Why and wherefore no one who knows the general history of the period will need to be informed.

Why Dr. Halley has chosen the title of "Comprehension" for his fifth chapter, we do not, even after reading his explanation, very clearly make out, and we think it is misleading. It relates to the period immediately before the Ejection of 1662, when the Presbyterians and Independents, at least, were both dependent on the State. But they were not comprehended in anything, excepting the Church of the First Born. They worked sometimes together, but more often separately, and certainly did not form anything like one State Church. Of the Independents of this period the author writes:—

"Although the Independents were favourably disposed to lay elders, they made other objections to the Established discipline. They would not acknowledge the authority of classical, synodical, or provincial assemblies. They respected no boundaries within which the action of Church should be confined. They maintained the independency of every church, that is, its competence to manage its own affairs, although they were willing to accept advice and assistance from Ministerial associations. The Congregationalism of Lancashire, as it was to some extent, modified by Mr. Eaton, its most influential supporter, upon the New England model, more nearly approximated to Presbyterianism than the sterner Independency of London and the eastern counties. With regard to the patronage and support which the Church received from the civil power, there was no great difference between them. The Independent minister received his stipend from the sequestrations, ploughed his glebe, enforced his dues, and exacted his 'chapel wage,' as readily and as strictly as his Presbyterian or Episcopalian neighbour. With regard to the interference of Government, he was less scrupulous than the Presbyterians, whose High Church principles were ever inducing them to protest against the action of the civil power in Church politics."

Here, for this week, we lay down this work; the treatment of the remaining portion deserving more space than we can give to it in the present article.

PEASANT LIFE.*

It is refreshing to come across a book like this, so rich in careful study, so sincere, and withal so unpretentious. It does not seek any extraneous helps of plot or forced incident, but in a series of finished panel pictures, with one well-chosen central figure, gives us within modest space the round of daily life—the sober joys and passions, and trials and disappointments—of the dwellers in a Scottish strath, said to be "north of Tay," but we should fancy much nearer to Dee than Tay. Yet, in our opinion, and in spite of, or rather, because of, its unconscious artistic power and completeness, the book would have been better undoubtedly had it been either less or more pretentious. Evidently the author was quite honest in his intention of writing some sketches which should suffice to awaken interest in those among whom he has lived and in whom he has found so much to admire and sympathise with. And no doubt the introductory remarks were put down quite in good faith. Yet our author shows himself too true an artist, has too much simple dramatic instinct and native skill to permit his work to *justify* (using that term in its strict critical sense, as meaning to *lead up to*) the lesson which he wishes it to carry to the reader. While claiming our pity, and seeking to elicit our practical help in behoof of a certain class of workers, he composes a series of prose idyls, in which the imagination has so done its work—so faithfully refined away whatsoever is accidental and unworthy—has, in fact, so drawn forth into the sunlight the finer threads of life and character, too often left to waste obscurely in dim corners and dusty nooks, that the soul as well as the eye rests upon their long-hidden brightness and lustre with a sense of serene satisfaction. Here we have once more a salient instance of the manner in which art refutes and confutes all efforts at making her directly minister to utility, however noble and necessary it may assume to be. These sketches, with only one exception, tend to neutralise all that the author says in the introduction fitted to excite anything like practical effort on behalf of those about whom he writes. The real effective lesson of the book is that genuine independence and simple nobility of nature may co-exist with very unfavourable surroundings, and develop themselves in a manner and form which (for purposes of artistic construction, at all events) could hardly be dissociated from the very elements of which our author as reformer so anxiously wishes to get rid. We, of course, are very far from denying the need there is for many of the changes he urges, especially in regard to better housing for field workers. But most of his concrete specimens of the class are, to say the least, very respectable. Admittedly, they are generally sober, industrious, contented, most patient under scorching sun or biting cold, and, notwithstanding the "out-of-doors" "courtship," few of its evils cling to married life—the parents being, perhaps, only too rigid in religious and moral training, eager for the education and well-being of their children, and ready to sacrifice all personal comfort and convenience for their sakes. These are lofty virtues, the foundation, in fact, of great national life. Our author powerfully witnesses for these, not only indirectly by his exquisite character studies, but in weighty, earnest words, as thus:—

"The peasant schoolboy is rarely a bad little man. He is free from the leading vices of boys in cities. He may be as poor and hungry, as tattered and forlorn, as the veriest city Arab; but he does not steal—unless, mayhap, a turnip from the field to eat it. The love of license, which in town boys is so often exhibited in petty acts of mischief and depredation, is in him sufficiently vented in long pursuit of the hated yellowhammer, which, he oddly believes, is or was a witch; or by assault (wanton) on a rookery, or (daring) on a wasp's nest. The incidents of his life are so little complex that he has small need of refuges of lies."

* *Peasant Life*; being Sketches of the Villagers and Field-labourers in Glenalgie. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas.

Already the qualities which mark him in manhood distinguish him—patience under cold, or pain, or punishment; caution and love of peace; and that ‘solid-headedness’ which is hard to move to emotion of any sort. Thus his ninth or tenth year finds him fit ‘to do a little for himself’: and then, if the parents are poor, he leaves the school in spring, and goes off to ‘summer-herding.’ He may return to school thereafter for a ‘winter or two’; but, too commonly, he has acquired all that he is destined to acquire, and at once enters on his life of labour.

“If the parents are able to maintain their child without prematurely sending him to earn his own food (and this, to their credit, they strive to do), the boy remains at school till the age of twelve or thirteen—in such case really acquiring a smattering of the ordinary branches of education. The education of the female child is, however, far more desultory.

“It is singular that, notwithstanding the inferiority of the schoolmasters in districts like this, and the difficulties in the path of the peasants, both parents and children, here and there a boy emerges from school, betakes himself to studies in lonely barn or outhouse, building on the loose foundation of knowledge lined off for him at school. Stranger still, almost self-taught, he sets off to college, and, if he succeeds in winning a bursary at the college competitions, pursues his success until he reaches the haven of a rural manse. Those who thus ‘make their way’ are generally sensible men. I have seldom found them distinguished or distinguishable from their brethren in the ministry. Perhaps, such careers are just an outcome of a real spring of enterprise and power to dare and do, common to the people generally.”

We fear there is not much chance of reformers and politicians, who are familiar with the utterly ignorant, degraded, almost brute level to which life is sunk, not only among the masses in our great towns both north and south of the Tweed, but among English agricultural labourers, being touched to earnest agitation by this description, not to speak of the pictures which follow. There are too many phases of degraded life out of which it would be hard to extract the material for an idyl.

Coming now to the sketches themselves, they are nothing less than exquisite. How simply and naturally the main thread of individual life develops itself, gathering some tone or tint from all with which it comes in contact, its very reserve and outward roughness making it the richer for artistic purposes, as the rude fences so easily catch a passing tribute from the sheep as they pass out and in—permanent suggestions of pastoral peace and content. The wise, discreet contentment, the quiet reserve, the patient, pawky fun, the tenderness that lies so deep down in seeming coarse, rough natures, often bursting out suddenly like hot geyser springs—all these this writer has caught and represented with such faithfulness and disinterested sympathy as to throw new lights on Scottish peasant life, even to those who know it well; while to those who do not know it, or know it only from books, some of these tales will be nothing short of a revelation. They are so true, so natural, conceived with so much regard for the *best* in those whom the author paints, and yet with no determinate purpose to blink the truth as to their faults and sins, that we have no doubt the book will soon take quite a recognised and distinctive place. “Muckle Jock,” with his shyness, his awkwardness, and tender heart, like a sand-martin’s nest hidden away in some far corner of his moral being, is truly a capital study; and not less May, his sweetheart, with her gentle brusqueness and winning ways; while the story of Betty, the sister, is charged in its close with a stern pathos, the more as showing how “illitit ‘love’ does not always wholly blunt the sense of shame and family respect, or blot out entirely the dignity of womanhood. What a pathos there is in her words uttered in Muckle Jock’s ear, when she tells the silent, absorbed, soul-stricken man of the hopelessness of May’s recovery. “God help you, Jock; I fear she’ll dee. ‘I wish tae God it was masel’.”

Kate Rose, with her stunted intellect, great soul, and gross bodily frame, is quite an original character, and she is drawn with a few broad decisive touches. Evidently there is on the writer’s part a restrained enthusiasm which gives force to his picture of Kate, and adds greatly to the effect of the episode of the noble, gentle, half-witted creature falling in love with the doctor in her illness; so that there is a necessity for a few drastic doses, as being the most innocent way to wean the silly woman from her delusion. A little dash of the grotesque mostly always followed in the train of the truly pathetic; and so it is here. Kate’s devotion to her brother and sister, and her ungrudging self-sacrifice and clinging tenderness, are beautiful traits, and brought out with remarkable dramatic skill.

“I had called on her in consequence of information received from the sexton. When I entered, she was sitting on a stool at the hearth, and she had the two children beside her, with an arm round each. There was no fire. She turned her strange, stolid face to me as I entered, but did not rise or speak. The only chair in the room looked very crazy, so I took a low stool to

the opposite side of the hearth and sat down. We sat in silence for some minutes, during which she seemed entirely to ignore my presence, remaining motionless with her arms round her little ones. At last I said, ‘I knew your father, and have come to see if I can help you.’

“She surveyed me carefully, and did not reply for several minutes. Then her answer was, ‘Ye’re braw’; and then, after a pause, ‘Ye wisna at the beerial.’

“I explained that my health did not permit me to attend funerals; but that now I would gladly aid her in her trouble.

“‘But ye wisna at the beerial,’ said she again.

“I was completely disconcerted. What could I make of such a creature?

“Just then the little boy in her right arm said, pitifully, ‘Oh! wisna ye gie me ma meat?’

“And a convulsive shudder passed through Kate’s large frame; and she kissed the boy, saying—‘Wheesht, ma bairnie.’

“‘You must allow me to send some food for these children,’ I said.

“Her reply was almost fierce, ‘Am no a beggar.’

“This was just as the sexton had told me; and I did not well know what to say next. I resorted to the dialect of the district. ‘Ye see am no vera rich, but there’s mony nae sae weel aff; an’ whiles I gie the len’ o’ twa three shillings whan folk need it, an’ I aye get it back, ilka bawbee o’t, wi’ a blessing sometimes. I’ll len’ ye the noo, an’ ye’ll pay me back whan ye win it.’

“It was some time before she answered me. ‘Ma-an, ye’re a frien’!’ Then after a pause, and with emphasis, ‘Weel, weel then.’

“I understood she would take a loan, so I got up and offered her ten shillings. She counted them, one, two, three, and so on, on the window-sill. Then she slowly counted five over again, and took up the five and put them in my hand, saying, ‘Yon’ll dae.’

“So I left her, wondering at her singularity, and how she came to possess that spirit of independence. But before I left her, I patted the little heads that were in her charge, and spoke kindly words to them. Some time afterwards I learned that the hard farmer, whom she had just left, had refused to give her any part of her wages because she went away at mid-term.

“While I was puzzling myself as to what employment could be provided for Kate, by which she might earn a living, however humble, I learned that she had already set to work, and was earning something. Morning, noon, and evening, saw her hastening to distant hill-sides and woods, and hurrying back with large loads of brushwood and heather and ferns. Some she used as firewood, more she sold, receiving a few pence for her load of branches of firewood, or of ferns for bedding cattle or pigs, and earning, I was assured, what would certainly keep the souls and bodies of them together. I saw that the poor girl’s happiness was best consulted by letting her take her own course. I therefore contented myself by seeing Widow Ferguson, the old woman who lived ‘but and ben’ with Kate and the two children, and her I enjoined to instantly acquaint me if it should appear that their supply of food ran short.

“‘Oh, sir!’ said the old woman, ‘She’s a eident, thoughtfu’ cretar, yon Kate, an’ cleanly. She redd oot the haill place, and biggit a fresh bed wi’ heather and brackens; an’ she looks the bairns mortal. Oh, but she’s a strange cretar!’

“I went into Kate’s room. It was swept and thoroughly clean—table, stools, and all were clean and white. Standing at the end of the table was Kate, her face lightened up with an intense look of pleasure, while on each side of the table stood one of the children, with cheerful face and bright eyes. Each had a long horn spoon, and was busily supping porridge from an earthenware platter in the centre of the table. As I entered, the old perplexed look came back to Kate’s face, and with more readiness of speech than she showed on my former visit, she said, ‘No yet.’

“She thought I came for the money. I sat down, saying, ‘I just cam’ in tae speir for ye. Maybe ye’re needin’ a shilling or twa till ye get regular wark.’

“‘Frien’, was all she said; but she lifted the lid of a small box, scarcely twice the size of a lady’s bonnet-box. It contained some meal. She took some money from the pocket of her frock, and showed four shillings and several pence; and she pointed to three heather-bases or mats in a corner, her own work, ready for sale. Then I got up, saying, ‘Ye’ll do bravely, my lassie.’

“And she said, ‘Weel, weel, then,’ and resumed her position of delight at the table, where the young ones were still feeding; and so I left her.

“The two little ones were totally unlike their eldest sister. When I had known Kate for long years, I came to perceive lines of pleasantness in her face and a family resemblance to the younger children; but in truth these were not to be noticed at once. The little ones were positively pretty, and looked so notwithstanding their tattered clothing.

“Kate went to harvest work, and wrought ‘by the thrieve’; that is, her payment corresponded to the number of sheaves which she cut down; and her unflinching industry, notwithstanding her heavy frame, enabled her to make more than ordinary wages. After harvest she came to me to repay the five shillings. I urged her to keep it as a present to the little one, but she said, ‘Na, na, frien’; I can wark for them; and she insisted on my taking the money.

“I offered her a glass of wine, but this she very decidedly refused, saying, ‘Na, na, na,’ as if it had been Dr. Blake’s physic I had tendered to her. Then she went away, saying, ‘Good-bye, frien’.

“While Blake was attending to the boy’s thumb, I made him suggest that the little ones should go to school. Kate agreed to it with some hesitation. Blake said that he and I would pay the school fees; but Kate said, ‘Na, na, frien’.

“My sister, however, sewed a frock for Bella, and I got Durrand, the tailor, to break down some old clothes and to make up a jacket and trousers for Bob; and in Kate’s absence the little people were dressed in these garments. Widow Ferguson, their neighbour, told me that Kate ‘made a great clamour when she cam’ hame and found them sae dreasit, mair noise than e'er she made, exceptin’ whan Bob hurt his thoom’.

“She was for stripping off the clothes then and there, protesting, ‘I’m no a beggar.’ But the children cried

and explained that it was ‘the frien’s’ did it, and that their ‘auld duds’ had been carried away.

“At length, when the bairns had cried much, Kate admitted that ‘it was frien’ like,’ and the row stopped, and Kate said, ‘Weel, weel, then.’

“The children went to school, and Bob was a clever boy and apt at his lessons, although a rambling lad. Bella was attentive, and also prompt to learn, and a lively lassie, but docile and discreet beyond her years.”

After not a little drizzle, and just a little sunshine, the three are conducted into a peaceful haven at last. Bella is timously cured of a love that would have led to misery, and marries a decent widower, Peter Crombie, at whose hearth Kate, too, finds a home. “Bella is the ‘mother of three children, who are a sad concern to my old friend Kate, whose ‘bairns’ they specially are. Mr. Robert Rose is a ‘student of divinity, and a young man of great promise.’

“The Mason’s Daughter” wanders more into the ordinary region of sentiment, but is very beautifully told; and so also is the “Bourtree” and the “Red-Tiled Cottage,” though neither of these seem to us quite equal for homely strength and insight to “Muckle Jock.”

One thing we have noticed with some regret—a tendency to drag down the ideal of love to something very like a mere happy instinct, by which men and women may be mated in a sort of decent order, and made the more handy instruments for propagating the species. Happily this doctrine, too, is confuted by these tales themselves—“Muckle Jock’s” love, through which the ethereal spark of his soul was struck out to illuminate all the lower prosaic level of his life, and that with no will o’ the wisp glimmerings, being itself complete dramatic refutation of the oft-repeated dogma—the one mark on our author’s heel, as showing one point of his nature rather closed to lofty sympathy. But the book, as a whole, is simply delightful, and we are only doing a mere duty when we urge our readers to procure it.

REVISED VERSIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

It requires no little boldness in any man who values his own reputation for orthodoxy to attempt a revision of our “Authorised Version” of the New Testament, for the jealousy which guards not only the *Textus receptus*, but even the English translation of it, is as intense as it is irrational. It might have been expected that the stronger a man’s belief in the idea of verbal inspiration the more earnest would be his desire to attain to perfect accuracy in the text, but so far is this from being the case, that, with few exceptions, those who insist that every word of Holy Scripture comes direct from God Himself, are those who view with the greatest abhorrence all endeavours to purge the Divine record of all human errors and additions. We have recently had two or three occasions of testing the strength of this feeling, and with all that we had known before of the lengths to which narrowness and bigotry will go, were certainly surprised at the utter want of intelligence and candour we found. It seemed, indeed, as if the correctness of a reading, or the faithfulness of a particular rendering, were of very small importance compared with the consequences that might result from any alteration. The idea of treating such points as questions of evidence, to be decided altogether irrespective of dogmatic considerations, hardly seemed to occur to these theological Conservatives. They had got a certain creed which some particular texts appeared to support, and they were determined to maintain them at all costs. Whether the language on which so much was rested formed part of the Bible or not, or whether it was correctly translated, was a matter of very secondary importance—it was in the “Authorised Version,” and it supported their theory, and that was sufficient for them. We need not point out the unwisdom of such a course. It is with ignorant people alone that it can be of avail at all, and that only in virtue of an ignorance on which Christian teachers should be ashamed to trade, and even with these its effect can only be temporary, for there are numbers now to point out the fallacy. With scholars it only provokes ridicule and contempt, and excites opposition to a system which is supported by such means. The advocates of the Gospel have nothing to dread from the light, and they do injustice to the cause they profess to serve when they appear afraid to face facts. And of all facts those relative to the Book which is the foundation of their faith, are those which they should be most anxious to welcome.

* The New Testament. Authorised Version, revised by HENRY ALFORD, D.D. London: Strahan.

The New Testament. Translated from the Greek Text of TISCHENDORF, by Rev. R. AINSLIE. London: Longmans.

If anything could calm the unreasoning fears of such people, it would be an examination of the two versions of the New Testament before us. In some points Mr. Ainslie's divergence from our English translation is wider than Dean Alford's; but even were we to accept his as it stands, the change it would make in our views would be but slight. Some texts commonly quoted on behalf of particular dogmas would have to be abandoned, but the fundamental principles of our religion do not rest on the interpretation of isolated texts, and the argument in defence of them is strengthened by the abandonment of untenable positions. We have little hope, however, of influencing minds so strongly prepossessed, but we are satisfied that they will not be able much longer to delay that complete revision of the original text of our translation which scholars have long demanded. The discovery of the Sinaitic manuscript on which Tischendorf has based the text which Mr. Ainslie has translated with great care—and, though on some points we dissent from his judgment, on the whole correctly—is itself sufficient to justify the call for such revision, and the editors of the two versions have done good service by indicating the kind of changes that need to be made. Many of their alterations seem very small, but even where they are only verbal they often add much to the force of the version. Thus in the fourth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, we have one Greek word occurring eleven times, and rendered by our translators in three different ways—"reckon," "impute," and "count." In both the versions before us the effect of the reasoning is increased by the adoption of one word, "reckon," throughout, as in the Greek. Again, in the Apocalypse our translators appear to have shrunk from the idea of describing the representatives of the redeemed church as seated upon "thrones," and therefore have rendered, "and roundabout the throne four-and-twenty seats." Surely there is a great truth which is obscured by this failure to render the same Greek by the same English word in both instances. The promise of Christ to His faithful followers is that they shall sit with Him on His throne, and this is brought out in the more correct rendering adopted both by Dean Alford and Mr. Ainslie, "round about the throne four-and-twenty thrones." These are only incidental illustrations of the advantage resulting from very slight changes. Their number might be very largely increased, and the more they are examined the more clear will be the evidence of the good to be anticipated from a wise revision. Needless changes ought, however, to be avoided, for the words of Scripture have acquired a sanctity and power from association, and we see no good to accrue from the substitution of mere synonyms. In many cases, too, we prefer the original to the changes that are here introduced. "Whosoever loveth and maketh a 'lie,' is, in our judgment, very superior to Dean Alford's, "Whosoever loveth and doeth falsehood." But to attempt a minute examination of the two versions would demand a space we cannot give to them. Suffice it to say, they are both extremely valuable, not only in themselves, but as preparing the way for what is much needed. Mr. Ainslie's work goes further, inasmuch as his translation is made from Tischendorf's latest text, but Dean Alford, while proceeding on the *Textus receptus*, indicates the more important points in which it is modified by the older manuscripts. Many of the most important books in his volume are from a version which appeared some years ago edited by himself and four other clergymen, and the renderings have therefore been tested by various scholars. Both the books will be eminently useful to all students of Scripture. Dean Alford's remarks on revision in the preface specially deserve the attention of those who timidly shrink from all change.

BRIEF NOTICES.

George Burley; his History and Experiences. By GEORGE E. SARGENT. (London: Religious Tract Society.) The design of this tale is to exhibit in the contrast supplied by the lives of two young men the working of good and evil principles. There is nothing new in the idea, but the lesson is one which continually needs to be repeated, and Mr. Sargent has done it in a very interesting and effective manner. There is another lesson, however, which is very rarely taught, and to which some tales might be devoted with considerable advantage—the blessedness which may be found even in the present failures and disappointments of lives sanctified by Christian principle, and deriving their joy from internal sources. We fear, however, that such tales as these which make the good people prosperous, and inculcate the principle that "Godliness is profitable for all things, having the promise of the life that now is as well as of that which is to come," largely outnumber the others.

Tim Doolan, the Irish Emigrant. By the Author of

"Mick Tracy." (London: S. W. Partridge.) This story, which is very fairly told, derives its chief interest from the fact that it is a record of real incidents. The pictures of life in the emigrant vessel and of the difficulties of the settler are as instructive as they are entertaining.

The Life of Pizarro. By ARTHUR HELPS. (London: Bell and Daldy.) This is another of the series of biographies of representative men, taken from the author's great work on the Spanish Conquest. As Columbus was the type of the discoverer, and Las Casas of the philanthropic worker with right instincts, though very mistaken judgment, and Cortes of the great commander, Pizarro is the type of the mere soldier. The story is full of romance and interest, and the remarkable beauty of Mr. Helps' style adds greatly to its interest. If Pizarro had not in him the elements of greatness, and would probably, in ordinary times, have filled a subordinate place in society with great credit and respectability, he is not "one of the least admirable of those men who have earned a great though sorrowful renown from having taken a leading part in the Spanish Conquest in America." The dramatic character of the narrative is greatly increased by the story of the conspiracy to which he fell a victim, and which is related here with graphic vividness. The book is edited by the Rev. F. Watkins, who has collected the facts as they were scattered through the original work, and welded them into a continuous narrative. He has executed the task with considerable success, but we confess that we should have liked the book better if Mr. Helps had manipulated his own materials.

The Victorious Life. By HENRY T. EDWARDS, B.A. (London: Smith, Elder, and Co.) This volume of sermons is not of a commonplace character. The preacher has thoughts for himself, and puts his thoughts with a force and beauty that often rise into true eloquence. We only regret that so much which is true and powerful should be marred by the continual intrusion of extreme sacramental notions. Mr. Edwards does not indeed set himself to an elaborate exposition and defence of these opinions, but they have evidently taken a strong hold of his mind, and give a colouring to most of his sermons. They come in where we least expect them, and certainly interfere with our enjoyment of some very exquisite passages in the volume. Despite this exception, however, we have been much interested in many of these discourses, whose freshness, independence of thought, beauty of expression, and practical character, deserve a high commendation.

Girlhood and Womanhood; a Story of some Fortunes and Misfortunes. By SARAH TYLER. (London: Strahan and Co.) Miss Tyler is a simple, elegant, and thoughtful writer, and this collection of narrative sketches is not unworthy of her reputation. They are suggestive and interesting, marked by considerable beauty, full of wise hints, and may be read with interest and benefit by readers of almost any age and of either sex.

Correspondence.

BEERSHOPS IN VICTORIA PARK.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—At a moment when every effort is being made to counteract the effects of the terrible vice of intemperance which prevails so largely in this country, it is much to be regretted that Mr. Layard should have sanctioned the establishment of a beershop in Victoria Park, a place which has hitherto proved largely conducive to the promotion of habits of sobriety among the East London artisans, who have here learned to take a delight in the works of nature, without being exposed to the degrading and almost irresistible influence of the public-house. A great meeting of working men has already protested against the attempt to render the park a public-house garden, and the Bethnal Green Board of Guardians have unanimously agreed to memorialise Mr. Layard against a project so calculated to undo a large portion of the religious and social progress effected in East London, by reducing Victoria Park to the level of a country fair. The matter calls for immediate attention. The aid of Parliament must be invoked. Let all who value the promotion of habits of sobriety among the people, who would stay the march of Sabbath desecration, immediately petition Parliament not to allow the establishment of beershops in Victoria Park. Let every place of worship, every Sunday-school, every Christian association in East London, immediately get up petitions to Parliament. We have public opinion on our side, but we must give practical effect to it. Let every one write, Churchman and Dissenter, abstainer and non-abstainer, to prevent what bids fair to become a national disgrace and scandal. If Mr. Layard will not respect the wishes of the people, they and Parliament must compel him.

JOHN PLUMMER.

3, Homer-terrace, Hackney Wick,
May 15, 1869.

THE BIBLE AND THE BURNING PLACE OF THE INQUISITION AT MADRID.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—The heading above will be read by your readers with joy and horror—with joy when they

know that in one day ninety francs worth of Bibles, Testaments, and portions have been sold, and with horror, when they remember the tortures of the Inquisition. Upon the very spot where so many martyrs died in defence of the faith, hundreds of the gospels printed for the committee of the Bible Stand in the Crystal Palace have been purchased by the Spaniards visiting visiting the "Quemadero de la Cruz"—"Burning Place of the Cross," where you see in geological strata charred wood and human bones, and coats which have been used to cover up the burned bodies with, and layer upon layer in this form. Over this charnel-house of the dead, our co-worker, G—L—, stands with his Bible in his hand, and offers one of the Gospels for a halfpenny. In a few hours hundreds are bought, and all the half-pennies are laid out in bread and meat for the poor. God is working mightily upon the consciences of the Spaniards, and I rejoice to tell you that 195,000 Gospels and Epistles have been sold or distributed since the opening of our "Depot" in Madrid.

The wife of our fellow-labourer, G—L—, and his two dear little girls, are also helping in this work, and are sometimes surrounded with more than 100 workmen, and often followed home by others who entreat the gift of one of the Gospels. Our brother writes—"I am praying the Lord to send you 1,000L towards a Bible carriage for Spain. Nothing like it for the fairs." I join him in that prayer, and plead Matt. x. 9, for its fulfilment. Will you, my readers join also?

Yours truly,

WILLIAM HAWKE.

Bible Stand, Crystal Palace.
Office, 187, Houndsditch, London, E.,
May 19, 1869.

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES AND CELIBACY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—I do not know whether any of your readers read the remarks of Dr. Landels at the meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society on the above subject. After advertising to the expense of married missionaries, said to be 385L per annum, the outfit and passage costing 270L, the worthy Doctor went on to say, "A good many of us are deeply imbued with the conviction that a man who is not willing, for the sake of the cause of Christ, to forego his marriage for a few years, is not the fittest man to become a missionary to the heathen." Now, Sir, if I have read the annals of missionary enterprise aright, it has ever appeared to me that it has been nearly, as much indebted for success to female influence as to that of male missionaries. I am sorry if I am wrong. Or are we to understand Dr. Landels that, in opposition to the Divine law, "it is good for man to be alone," and alone, too, in a work which, perhaps more than any other, requires a bosom counsellor and a faithful earthly friend? If the Doctor's position is correct, are the priests of the Church of Rome so much at fault for remaining celibates? If the cause of Christ is promoted anywhere and at any time by single-blessedness, why not everywhere and at all times? May not the home life and domestic circle teach lessons of Divine truth to a heathenish and barbarous community only second in value to that of the Word of Life? Very terrible is the energy of the doughty champion of solitary life in the mission-field. He says, "I shall for one stand here, and shall agitate, agitate, agitate, until a more rational and economical system shall become the rule of our society." But Dr. Landels failed, or forgot altogether, to show what was irrational in a missionary being found guilty of marriage, and then having to be supported. It will be as well, however, that before any about to enter the missionary service take the vows of celibacy, that there should be a little free discussion, that they may not be taken unawares. If there really are "many of us" in favour of Dr. Landels' scheme, we should know who they are, and especially should we know what personal self-denial they have undergone, and what home joys they have resigned to serve or save the heathen either at home or abroad. Are any of the other missionary societies prepared to endorse this condemnation of the marriage-bond?

Yours very truly,
G. M. M.

Walworth, S.E.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MISSIONARIES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—In Doctor Landels' admirable speech at the meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society, as reported in your paper of 5th inst., his suggestion seems worthy not only of consideration, but of speedy adoption, on the part of all our missionary societies, in order to make missionary enterprise a grand success, namely, "that unmarried men, free from family ties and cares, should be sent out to occupy the field of mission labour abroad."

On reading a work recently published, "The Malay Archipelago," by Wallace, I noticed that when at Singapore, the author "lived several weeks with one of the Jesuit missionaries. He had a pretty church and 300 converts. In China there are said to be near a million converts. In Cochin China more than half a million. One secret of the success is the rigid economy in the expenditure of the funds. A missionary is allowed about 80L a year, on which he lives in whatever country he may be. This enables them to support a large

number of missions on very small means. If a man came to my friend the missionary, and said, 'I have no rice for my family to-day,' he would give him half of what he had in his house. If another said, 'I have no money to pay my debt,' he would give him half the contents of his purse. So, when he himself was in want, he would send to some of the wealthiest of his flock, and they would supply him. The result was his flock trusted and loved him, and believed that he had no ulterior designs in living among them." Not to refer to other advantages, we see, as an economical question, how desirable it would be to employ unmarried men as missionaries to the heathen, as it appears from Dr. Landels' speech that the average yearly expenses of a married missionary in India is 385*l.*, in addition to 270*l.* for outfit.

But there is another qualification to which Dr. Landels has not referred, and which, in the present state of British society at home and abroad, seems to me an essential one; namely, that every missionary leaving this country should go out a pledged abstainer from the use of intoxicating liquors. I have for several years collected a large amount of information, being the testimony of colonial governors, officers in the army and navy, travellers, as well as missionaries, all tending to show that the intemperate habits and conduct resulting therefrom of Europeans abroad, are one of the greatest impediments to the success of missionary labours. Thus two antagonistic influences are continually at work—the building-up and pulling-down process; in reference to which it was wisely remarked by the editor of the *Times*—"That we send out rum and missionaries to the heathen, and when we have trained them to the use of the rum they prefer it, and reject the missionaries." In India the Hindoos regard a drunkard and a Christian as synonymous terms. And although the missionary may accomplish but little in improving the habits of the Europeans abroad addicted to intemperance, yet he may do much, by his own personal example of abstinence, in convincing the heathen that these drunken Europeans were anything but fair specimens of British Christians. As regards the whole question, it seems to me that the grand and prominent characteristic of Jesus Christ's religion, namely, self-denial for the good of others, is too much overlooked; and it is a remarkable fact that the triumph and successes of the Gospel were granted when it was less a money question than it is at present.

It was only a few days since the writer of a letter in the *Standard* on the increase of the Episcopate remarked—"A poor bishop would be a most successful experiment, and would rival in popularity the whole bench put together. He would draw the affections of the middle and lower orders to him on the same principle as a poor curate is often a more popular man than his rector."

WILLIAM MORGAN.

Blackrock, May 17, 1869.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN MAINE, U.S.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR.—A few weeks ago, on Mr. Gilpin's giving notice of a bill for the abolition of Capital Punishment, a certain M.P. informed him that he should oppose the bill on several grounds, and, in particular, because he had understood that the State of Maine had been compelled to resume the infliction of capital punishment after a trial of its abolition. But, in fact, the capital penalty has never been abolished in that State. At Mr. Gilpin's request I wrote to an esteemed correspondent in Maine for information; and his reply, just received, is subjoined. He (Mr. T. C. Upham) is well known on both sides the Atlantic as the writer of many valuable works on theology and moral science. He has also for many years held a prominent position amongst the philanthropists of New England.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM TALLACK.

5, Bishoptgate Without, E.C., May 24.

Kennebunkport, Maine, May 4, 1869.

My Dear Sir.—The law of Maine in relation to capital punishment, which has been on the statute-book for thirty-five years, remains unaltered; I think you have a copy of it. During that time there have been four executions within the limits of the State; two by the authority of the national courts for crimes punishable with death, committed on the high seas; in cases of which kind, if I understand it rightly, the United States courts and laws have exclusive jurisdiction, just as they would have exclusive jurisdiction in case of treason against the United States.

In case of crimes punishable with death under the authority of the State, if the person is convicted he cannot be executed until the expiration of a year, and then the law leaves the matter in the hands of the governor, who may either leave the criminal in prison, or, if, in his judgment, the public good requires it, order him to be executed.

During the long period of about thirty-five years, two only have been put to death under the State laws: one for attempting the life of the warden of the State prison, and the other for special atrocities in the crime for which he was convicted; the peculiar circumstances in each case furnishing a justification to the people of a course on the part of the executive authority which is practically obsolete. The people of Maine feel as safe under their system as any people in the world. But we have two powerful auxiliaries. Firstly, we keep the school-houses open; secondly, we keep the dram-shops shut.

I know of no State that has returned to capital punishment after having once abolished it. Education,

temperance, just laws, and light taxation, and, above all, a true and living religious sentiment, do more for the protection of the people than the death penalty.

Respectfully yours,
THOMAS C. UPHAM.

To William Tallack

Gleanings.

Mr. Bright has issued an order prohibiting smoking during office-hours at the Board of Trade.

At Michigan city, a clergyman makes his pastoral calls upon a velocipede.

General Tom Thumb is building a fine residence at Middleborough, Conn.

It is estimated that there are 255,000 threshing-machines in the United States, without counting the schoolmasters.

A New York editor says sugar has gone up so high as to produce a slight increase in the price of sand.

The death is announced of Herr Molique, the composer and eminent violin-player, who retired from the musical world some two years ago.

A beautifully-shaped salmon was caught on Tuesday, at the "Tay." The fish measured 42 inches in length and 27 inches in girth, and weighed 41bs.

CHURNING IN CHILI.—The ordinary mode of churning in Chili is to put the milk in a skin—usually a dogskin—tie it to a donkey, mount a boy on him with rowels to his spurs about the length of the animal's ears, and then run him about four miles.

American Paper.

An Irishman, speaking of the painful position of the Siamese Twins, wound up his remarks by adding,

"However, it is well they are brothers; if strangers to each other their predicament would be really distressing."

Mr. Stefanos Xenos has published a long defence of himself, in connection with the affairs of Overend, Gurney, and Co., under the title, "Depredations; or Overend, Gurney, and Co., and the Greek and Oriental Steam Navigation Company."

THE VALUE OF EDUCATION.—"Doctor," said an old woman to a medical man, "kin you tell me how it is that some folks is born dumb?"—"Certainly, madam," replied the doctor; "it is owing to the fact that they come into the world without the power of speech?"—"La, me," remarked the old lady, "now jest see what it is to have a physic education! I've axed my old man more nor a hundred times that 'ere same thing, and all that I could ever get out of him was, 'Kase they is!'"

A SPANISH EPITAPH.—Our English graveyards yield some curious fragments in the way of epitaphs, but we have never yet met with such a marvellous combination of business and bathos as is contained in the following obituary notice, culled from a Spanish journal:—"This morning our Saviour summoned away the jeweller Siebold Iilmaga from his shop to another and a better world. The undersigned, his widow, will weep upon his tomb, as will also his two daughters, Hilda and Emma, the former of whom is married, and the latter is open to an offer. The funeral will take place to-morrow. His inconsolable widow, VERONIQUE ILLMAGA. P.S. This bereavement will not interrupt our business, which will be carried on as usual, only our place of business will be removed from No. 3, Tessi de Teis-turiers, to No. 4, Rue de Missionnaire, as our grasping landlord has raised our rent."

THE WEDDING POET IN PARIS.—A strange Parisian calling is that of the wedding poet, who watches the announcement of forthcoming marriages among the small-shopkeeping class, and takes his notes of the bride, the colour of her hair, complexion, and style of face and figure on the steps of the mairie as the wedding party enter the building. On the shoemaker's principle, that there is nothing like leather, he remarks to the bridegroom, whom he subsequently intercepts at the door of the restaurant where the "nœce" is to be celebrated, that a wedding without poetry is deprived of all its sentiment, and then proceeds to show that happy individual the little string of compliments which have already done duty hundreds of times, but which he gives him to understand have been inspired by the charming bride of to-day. To remove any feeling of apprehension which might be entertained with regard to his appearance in the midst of an elegant company in threadbare attire, he takes care to inform the bridegroom that he has a dress suit at home—meaning that, if engaged, he knows where to hire one. After dinner he recites his poetical rhapsody in praise of the bride, for which his fee is ordinarily 15*l.*, though he will not disdain a smaller sum.—*Dickens's All the Year Round.*

THE GOOD OLD TIMES.—The following curious regulations for the use of ye Royal Household of Henry VII. compare amusingly with those of her Majesty Queen Victoria:—1. The barber must always keep himself clean, in order not to compromise his Majesty's health. 2. The treasurer shall not keep ragged scullions who walk about almost naked, and sleep or lie down before the kitchen fire. 3. No meat beyond a certain price shall be served on the King's table. 4. The servants to furnish a sufficient guarantee to provide against the subtraction of wooden platters and copper utensils belonging to his Majesty. 5. Pewter plate being too costly for daily use, the greatest care must be taken of the wooden platters and pewter spoons. 6. No boy or commissioner shall be kept at Court for the use of the servants. 7. Women who are prodigal shall be banished the Court. 8. As likewise all kinds of dogs, except a small number of spaniels, reserved for the

use of the ladies. 9. The officers of the King's household to live in harmony with each other. 12. The stable-boys not to steal his Majesty's straw to put in their beds, as a sufficient quantity has been given them. 13. Between six and seven o'clock the officer charged with the service of the King's chamber shall light the fire and lay straw in the private apartments of his Majesty. 14. Coal will only be furnished for the apartments of the King, the Queen, and those of Lady Mary. 15. The ladies of honour to have a piece of white bread and some beef for their breakfast. 16. A present will be made to any of the King's officers marrying, on condition they make a present to his Majesty.

DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS.—Mr. Newton's report on the acquisitions to the British Museum during last year, under the head of Greek and Roman Antiquities, states that the excavations in the Great Theatre and near the Magnesian Gate, at Ephesus, have been continued by Mr. Wood, and a large collection of inscriptions and other antiquities has rewarded his researches. Among these may be especially noted a very long inscription recording various gifts of treasure with which Vibius Salutaris endowed the celebrated temple of Diana at Ephesus. This inscription contains transcripts of a number of decrees, in one of which the consuls of the year 104 A.D. are mentioned; in another document allusion is made to the Emperor Trajan as then reigning. The date of the entire inscription is probably not much later than A.D. 104. It contains some curious particulars relating to the endowments and ritual of the temple of the Ephesian Diana, such as lists of votive statues in gold and silver, with the weight of each offering, the regulations under which such sacred objects were to be carried in processions; and the uses to which certain funds, the proceeds of these dedications, were to be appropriated. The inscription has been written on a number of blocks, which formed the facing of the wall at one of the two side entrances to the Great Theatre. Of several of these blocks only fragments remain, and so many lacunae occur in the text that its original length cannot be ascertained, but in its present mutilated condition this inscription is of very great interest, and one of the longest which has been discovered in Asia Minor. In the list of statues in the precious metals, dedicated by Salutaris, are several figures of Diana with two stags. These were, no doubt, such representations of the Ephesian goddess as, at the time of St. Paul's preaching, were manufactured in such abundance at Ephesus by Demetrius the silversmith, and his brother craftsmen, and which so frequently occur on the coins of Ephesus struck under the Roman Empire. Five blocks of marble have been discovered, containing decrees of the people of Ephesus, made in the fourth century B.C. From the internal evidence of the inscriptions, it appears that these blocks were originally wall-stones of the cells of the celebrated temple of Diana, which, on the destruction of that part of the edifice, must have been transported to the Great Theatre, and there used as building materials. The inscription on No. 3 is the continuation of that on a block sent home by Mr. Wood in 1867, and contains six decrees granting the citizenship of Ephesus to different persons for their respective services. One of these decrees rewards Euphrônios, son of Hegemon, for his services in an embassy to Ptolemaus, general of Cassander, towards B.C. 310; another decree rewards Archestratos for his services as general in Clazomenæ.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

DAVIS.—May 12, at Smedley-road, Manchester, the wife of the Rev. William Steadman Davis, of a daughter.

HEATH.—May 14, at 65, Mildmay Park, London, N., the wife of Fr. derick Heath, of a son.

BATCHELOR.—May 16, at Hillhead, Glasgow, the wife of the Rev. Henry Batchelor, of a daughter.

BARTON.—May 16, at 7, Provost-road, Haverstock-hill, the wife of David W. Barton, of a daughter.

BASSETT.—May 24, at 5, Clyde-terrace, Stockwell-road, S.W., the wife of Nathaniel J. F. Bassett, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CHERER—ATKINS.—May 13, by licence, at Regent's Park Chapel, by the Rev. W. Landels, D.D., Henry J. Cherer, Esq., of Newton Lodge, New Finchley-road, St. John's wood, to Ann, widow of the late John Atkins, Esq., of Lancaster Villa, Reading, Berks.

READ—NICHOLLS.—May 13, at Lewisham Congregational Church, Mr. George Edward Read, of Newington-crescent, to Eliza, eldest surviving daughter of Mr. George Nicholls, of Catford-bridge, Kent.

TOPPING—ENION.—May 15, in St. Paul's Independent Chapel, Wigan, by the Rev. W. Ross, Mr. Thomas Topping, to Miss Mary Enion, both of Haigh.

BRUCE—AINSWORTH.—May 17, at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Beverley-road, Hull, by the Rev. J. H. James, D.D., Mr. Thomas Bruce, to Miss Ellen Ainsworth, youngest daughter of Richard W. Ainsworth, of Hull.

BULMER—RHODES.—May 17, at the Bowring Congregational Chapel, by the Rev. J. K. Nuttall, Mr. Frederick Bulmer, to Miss Charlotte Rhodes, both of Bowring.

RAWSON—OSBORNE.—May 18, at the Congregational church, Saltire, by the Rev. David R. Cowan, Mr. Waring Rawson, of Idle, to Miss Sarah Anne Osborne, of Saltire.

BOWRING—WRIGHT.—May 18, at Albion Chapel, Hull, Mr. James Bowring, of the firm of Pinder and Bowring, wood merchants, to Ann Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr. John Wright, collector of dock dues, Hull.

JONES—THACKER.—May 18, at the Baptist Chapel, Cemetery-road, Sheffield, by the Rev. Giles Hester, Eliza, youngest son of Mr. Ellis Jones, Wostenholm-road, to Sarah Elizabeth, second daughter of the late Mr. Ebenezer Thacker, Sharrow-lane, Sheffield.

GALBRAITH—STAVELEY.—May 18, at the Crescent Chapel, Liverpool, by the Rev. J. Kelly, the Rev. Matthew Galbraith, M.A., of the United Presbyterian Church, Aberdeen, to Marianne Fife, only daughter of Richard Staveley, Esq., Liverpool.

DAVIS—MIAUL.—May 19, at St. Paul's-square Chapel, Southsea, by the Rev. Joseph Davis, father of the bridegroom, the Rev. Benjamin Benoni Davis, of Hailingden, Lancashire, to Fanny, second daughter of Augustus Miall, Esq., of St. Paul's-square, Southsea.

RAWLINGS—MAURICE.—May 19, at Hope-street Church, Liverpool, by the Rev. Charles Wicksteed, Gerald Warwick Rawlins, Esq., Jun., of Prince's Park, Liverpool, to Theodosia Ellen, fourth daughter of the late Mortimer Maurice, Esq., of Wrexham.

RIX—PEGLER.—May 20, at Portland Chapel, Southampton, by the Rev. Charles Williams, Septimus Rix, to Lucy Pugler. No card.

BIBBY—LOND.—May 21, at George-street Wesleyan Chapel, Hulme, Manchester, by the Rev. T. Wilds, William Henry, fourth son of the late Mr. John Bibby, to Mary, only daughter of Mr. James Lord, both of Hulme.

OLIVER—GRIFFITH.—May 25, at Salem Congregational Chapel, Carnarvon, by the Rev. Henry Oliver, B.A., Newport, Monmouthshire, brother to the bridgebuilder, artist, & by the Rev. E. Evans, minister of the place, the Rev. David Oliver, Llanberis, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. W. Griffith, of Tyddyn Eilan, Llanberis.

DEATHS.

KBY.—May 12, at Alexandria, St. Petersburg, Russia, Jane Agnes, aged six weeks and three days, the infant daughter of the Rev. James Kay.

MILNE.—May 15, aged fourteen years, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Annie Louise, fifth daughter of the Rev. R. G. Milne, M.A., of Southport, and formerly of Tinwell.

DILLON.—May 18, suddenly, at 2, New Bond-street, Bath, in her fifty-ninth year, Sarah, the beloved wife of Mr. Henry Dillon, senior deacon of Percy Congregational Chapel, Bath.

KEMP.—May 20, at Southport, Lancashire, aged seventy-five years, of bronchitis, John Abbott Kemp, Esq., formerly of Warwick-square, Pimlico.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Guardian*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 52, for the week ending Wednesday, May 19.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£30,696,655	Government Debt £11,015,100
Other Securities	3,881,900	
Gold Coin & Bullion 15,000,635		
	£30,696,655	£30,696,655

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital 14,550,000	Government Securities
2,164,448	Bills (in a dead weight annuity) £14,070,798
Public Deposits	4,912,328
Other Deposits	18,004,440
Seven Day and other Bills	18,568,780
	Notes
	7,359,370
	Gold & Silver Coins 1,112,285
	£41,111,285

May 20, 1869.

Geo. Forbes, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—*SOROFUL, SKIN DRAZIN*.—In no disease is more early or more constant vigilance required than in the treatment of scrofula. Early curative measures save great risks and much unnecessary suffering. The nurse or parent must meet the first approach of the foe, or his defeat will be difficult. Enlarged glands about the neck, tying pains through the limbs, and irritable skin warn us of the presence of this hereditary malady; and not a moment should be lost in the employment of Holloway's anti-scorbutic remedies, to throw out from the blood at once the morbid stains of all future disfigurements. These wonderful remedies leave the system pure and vigorous, so thorough hly do they banish the poison.

MARTHEIS.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON. Monday, May 24.

We have moderate arrivals of wheat, and the weather being fine caused less firmness in the tone of the market generally. The small supply of English wheat was taken at the currency of this day week, and foreign sold in retail, at late prices. Flour sold slowly, and prices were unaltered. In barley, beans and peas there is no alteration to notice. The arrival of oats is small, yet the trade is depressed, and last week's prices barely supported. The arrivals of cargoes are few, and prices of wheat, maize, and barley fully maintained.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per qr.	PEAS—	Per qr.
Barley and Kent, red, old	to —	Grey	39 to 40
Ditto	43 44	Maple	44 45
White, old	57 59	White	57 59
" new	46 48	Boilers	57 59
Foreign red	43 45	Foreign, boilers	56 57
" white	48 49	RTY	51 52
		OATS—	
English malting	30 33	English feed	26 30
Chevalier	43 47	" potato	29 31
Distilling	36 37	Scotch feed	— —
Foreign	39 32	" potato	— —
		Irish black	26 28
MALT—		" white	20 24
Pale	— —	Foreign feed	18 22
Chevalier	— —		
Brown	51 59		
BEANS—			
Ticks	24 25	FLOUR—	
Harrow	37 39	Town made	28 43
Small	— —	Country Marks	30 31
Hgyptian	33 31	Norfolk & Suffolk 29 30	

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, May 22.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 7d. to 8d.; household ditto, 8d. to 9d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.—Monday, May 24.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 19,366 head. At the corresponding period in 1868 we received 6,165; in 1867, 12,401; in 1866, 10,480; and in 1865, 16,461 head. The show of beasts in the Metropolitan Market this morning was very fair; but, as usual, the show was principally composed of foreign breeds. Home grazers are forwarding their stock cautiously, and there is still a scarcity of prime animals. However, as there is an abundant supply of grass, we shall doubtless shortly see an improvement in the quality. The trade, on the whole, was firm, and choice home-fed stock realised an advance of 2d. per Siba. The best Scots and crosses sold at from 5s. 8d. to 6s. 8d. per Siba. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 880 Scots and crosses; from other parts of England, 520 of various breeds; from Scotland, 150 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, 30 oxen. The market was well supplied with sheep. The demand was not brisk, and the quotations were lower—say 2d. per Siba. The best Downs and half-breds were in steady request, at from 5s. 6d. to 6s. 8d. per Siba. For lambs the trade was dull, at from 6s. 8d. to 8s. 8d. per Siba. Calves were quiet at late prices. Prime small pigs met a fair sale, but large hogs were dull.

Per Siba, to sink the Offal.

s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.
Inf. coarse 5s. 0 to 3 6	Prims Southdown 5 6 to 5 8
Second quality	Lambs
Prims large oxen 4 8 5 6	Lge. coarse calves 4 5 5 0
Prime Sots, &c. 5 8 5 10	Prime small
Coarse inf. sheep 3 0 4 0	Large hogs
Second quality 4 8 5 6	Neatam. porkers 4 8 5 2
Pr. coarse woolled 5 2 5 4	

Suckling calves, 22s. to 26s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 25s. each.

SMITHFIELD MEAT MARKET, Monday, May 24.

The supplies of meat are large, and the demand is less active, but the general quality has not been superior. Trade on the whole has ruled quiet, and prices have had a downward tendency. Last week's imports into London were 1 package from Bremen, 4 Harlingen, 1,340 Hamburg, 21 Ransda, and 1 Rotterdam.

Per Siba, by the carcass.

s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.
Inf. coarse beef 3 0 to 3 8	Inf. mutton
Middling ditto	Middling ditto
Prime large do	Prime ditto
Small do	Veal
	Small pork

COVENT-GARDEN MARKET.—LONDON, Saturday, May 22. Large supplies of cherries and apricots, with 300 boxes of strawberries from Havre. Among the former are some good purple guignes. The strawberries are only fit for cooking purposes. New green peas are to hand from Somerset and Wilts. Home-grown vegetables in fair request. Lisbon potatoes are slightly advanced. Flowers consist of orchids, lily of the valley, fuchsias, wallflowers, German stocks, pelargoniums, erica, celandine, hydrangea, shrubby calceolaria, roses, rhododendrons, pansies, narcissus, and ranunculus.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET.—Monday, May 24.—Our market continues very dull, home growths moving off slowly, and continental samples being taken up only for immediate wants. A slightly improved demand is perceptible for Americans, and prices of good goods continue firm. Accounts from the plantations report fair, in most of the large districts; and although the report is so far unimportant, it may of course influence the market considerably, should it extend, in the present weak state of the bines. New York letters to the 11th inst. report the market as quiet. Mid and East Kent, 21. 10s. to 21. 12s.; West of Kent, 21. 12s. to 21. 13s.; Sussex, 21. 10s. to 21. 12s.; Farnham, 21. 10s. to 21. 12s.; Country, 21. 10s. to 21. 12s.; Bawdsey, 21. 12s. to 21. 13s.; Earlings, 21. 12s. to 21. 13s.; Americans, 21. 12s. to 21. 13s.; to 21. 10s. The imports of foreign hops into London last week consisted of 4 bales from Antwerp, 42 Calais, 50 Dunkirk, 98 Hamburg, 18 Konigsberg, 71 Rotterdam, and 899 bales from New York.

PROVISIONS.—Monday, May 24.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 372 firkins butter, and 8,188 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 23,231 packages butter, 1,419 bales bacon. The transactions in Irish butter are still exceedingly limited. Foreign butter in good demand; prices advanced, best Dutch to 16s. The bacon market ruled steady; the best Waterford brands barely equal to the demand, at 8d. on board.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, May 21.—Fair supplies of potatoes on sale at these markets. There is a moderate demand at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 2,459 bags, 2,745 sacks Astwerp; 150 tons Bruges; 191 sacks Dunkirk, 31 sacks Boulogne, 1,236 boxes Gibraltar, 318 Mogador, and 3,137 boxes from Marseilles. English Regatta, 6d. to 11d. per ton; Flukes, 6d. to 10s.; Scotch Hergest, 6d. to 12s.; Hock, 4d. to 6d.; French, 5d. to 6d.

SHED.—Monday, May 24.—Scarcely any English cloverseed now appears, and none seemed to be wanted. Good foreign remain in fair demand for holding over at full price. In white cloverseed nothing passing worthy of remark. Trefoils are generally held on former terms. New mustardard sills high and steadily. Very few tares are left, and prices since higher than expected.

WOOL.—Monday, May 24.—The further decline which has taken place in the value of colonial produce has had a most depressing effect upon the market for English wool, while the fact that a further large quantity of foreign wool is expected for the next series forbids the hope of any improvement in the quotations. The trade has ruled very dull, and values have tended downwards, notwithstanding the comparatively small quantity of English wool on hand.

OIL.—Monday, May 24.—Linseed oil has been firm, and a further advance has taken place in prices. For rapeseed the market has been strong. Olive has been steadier; but cocoanut and palm have been difficult to sell.

TALLOW.—Monday, May 24.—The market is steady. Y.C. on the spot, 4s. per cwt. Town Tallow 4s. 9d. net each.

COAL.—Monday, May 24.—Market heavy, at the rates last day. WallSEND Huttons, 1s. 3d.; South Huttons, 1s. 3d.; Huttons Lyons, 1s. 3d.; Harton, 1s. 3d.; Harlpool, original, 1s. 6d.; Hough Hall, 1s. 9d.; Kelloe, 1s. 3d.; Kelloe South, 1s. 9d.; Kepler Grange, 1s. 9d.; Tunstall, 1s. 3d.; Holycross Main, 1s. 3d.; Hartley, 1s. 9d.; Tees, 1s. 3d. Ships fresh arrived, 6s.; ships left from last day, 2—total, 6s. Ships at market 11s. sold 6s.

Advertisements.

VOLUNTARY CHURCH-RATES

Copies of the Act for the Abolition of Compulsory Church-rates, with information for the guidance of raters, may be had on application to the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control.

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street, London

HENDON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2.—ANNIVERSARY SERMONS will be preached by—

Rev. MARK WILKS, afternoon, at three o'clock

Rev. HENRY ALLON, evening, at Half-past Six o'clock.

Trains by Midland Railway from Moorgate-street, King's

ROUET ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, BERMONDSEY.

PASTOR.—REV. GILBERT MCALL.

Cost of Proposed Building..... £4,800
Amount already promised 2,500

This Work commenced under the auspices of the Surrey Congregational Union in the midst of a dense population. It has now, under Mr. McAll's ministry, outgrown the limits of the present Temporary Iron Chapel, which must be removed within twelve months.

Contributions are earnestly solicited towards the Building Fund, that the new Chapel may be opened free from debt.

Accommodation will be provided for 1,000 Adults, and for 700 Children in the Schools.

Donations will be received by the Treasurer, Arthur Marshall, Esq., Peckham-rye, and 101, Leadenhall-street, City; Rev. Gilbert McAll, 45, Upper Grange-road, S.E.; and at the Office of the *Nonconformist*, 18, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, and the *Christian World*, 13, Fleet-street.

Among the chief amounts already promised are:—

	£	s.	d.
S. Morley, Esq., M.P.	500	0	0
London Congregational Chapel Building Society (Grant)	250	0	0
Ditto (Loan)	250	0	0
W. Tarn, Esq.	150	0	0
W. W. Bear, Esq.	150	0	0
J. Remington Mills, Esq.	100	0	0
Coward Trustees	100	0	0
A Friend	100	0	0
B. Bevington, Esq.	50	0	0
J. Crane, Esq.	50	0	0
T. Simpson, Esq.	50	0	0

LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 37, Queen-square, Bloomsbury.
Beds from 1s. 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT POLICIES.

"By affording an easy and inexpensive means of making provision for families, it (the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society) will confer a substantial benefit upon society."—Law Journal, Dec. 6.

For Prospectivees, showing the mode by which this invaluable provision may be made for a family, either before or after marriage, apply to the NORWICH UNION LIFE OFFICE, 50, Fleet-street, E.C.

TO PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, and OTHERS.—In consequence of the death of Mr. ROBESON, Messrs. BROAD, PRITCHARD, and WILTSIRE are instructed to dispose of the GOODWILL, COPYRIGHT, PLANT, and BACK STOCK of the well-known publication, "THE PULPIT," established in the year 1823. For terms and particulars apply to Messrs. Broad, Pritchard, and Wiltshire, Auctioneers, Surveyors, and Valuers, 28, Poultry, E.C.

TO the POSSESSORS of DEAN ALFORD'S REVISED VERSION of the NEW TESTAMENT.

You are requested to supply an unfortunate omission in the printing, by inserting at 2 Cor. xii. 18, after "of you?" the words, "Walked we not in the same Spirit?"
Deanery, Canterbury, May 24th, 1869.

A LADY, residing with her Mother in a Country Town, and accustomed to the care and tuition of children, wishes to receive Two or Three LITTLE GIRLS (sisters preferred), who would enjoy all the advantages of a happy Christian home, and receive a thoroughly good Education.—For terms and references, address X. Y. Z., 10, Castle-street, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, a GENTLEMAN to organise Associations and address Public Meetings in the Northern Parts of the United Kingdom on behalf of the LONDON CITY MISSION. It is essential that he be a Layman, and of liberal education. Salary from £200 to £250.—Apply, by letter only, to the Secretary, London City Mission House, Red Lion-square, London, W.C.

WANTED, by a YOUNG MAN, respectably connected, who has received a liberal education, and is acquainted with French and German, a RE-ENGAGEMENT in a House of Business, either in the Warehouse or Office. He has been for about Five Years in the WOOLLEN TRADE. Highest Testimonials can be furnished.—Address, J. S. W., care of Rev. James Webb, Bury, Lancashire.

A N APPRENTICE WANTED to the FURNISHING IRONMONGERY. Unusual domestic comforts. Premium, £80 or £100.—Address, EDWIN LANCY, Sheffield House, Exeter.

ORGAN by AVERY, with Three Rows of Keys. Also several Second-hand ORGANS, of various sizes, at Low Prices, at BISHOP and STARR'S, Organ Manufactory, 250, Marylebone-road.

COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, CRANFORD HALL, near HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX.

At this School YOUNG GENTLEMEN are Soundly Taught, Carefully Trained, and Liberally Fed. Mr. VERNEY, the Principal of the School, has had much experience in the work of Education. The premises are large and well adapted. A Circular forwarded upon application.

TUDOR HALL LADIES' COLLEGE, FOREST HILL, SYDENHAM.

PROFESSORS.

English Literature	Mrs. C. L. BALFOUR.
Botany	Prof. of BENTLEY.
Globes, and Natural Science	Messrs. WILSON & WILLIAM
Music, Theory, &c.	JOHN BLACKLEY, Esq.
Harmonium and Piano	HENRY LOUIS DIEHL.
Singing	JAMES COWARD, Esq.
Drawing and Painting	R. W. BURG, Esq.
Geology and Biblical Studies	Rev. J. W. TODD.
French Language	Dr. MANDROU.
German Language	Dr. HIRSCH.

Referee—Parents of Pupils and Clergymen.

For Particulars, address the Principal, Mrs. TODD.

BERKELEY HOUSE SCHOOL, LEICESTER-STREET, SOUTHPORT.

JAMES COLLIER, B.A., the Principal, has erected premises in Oxford road, Birkdale Park, with a special view to the requirements of a modern FIRST-CLASS SCHOOL, and intends to occupy them at Midsummer next.

Prospectivees franked.

STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES-GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principals, The Misses HOWARD. Resident Foreign Governesses.

HALF TERM COMMENCES JUNE 21.

Terms and references on application.

LANSDOWNE HOUSE, LONDON-ROAD, LEICESTER.

EDUCATION FOR YOUNG LADIES.

CONDUCTED BY THE MSES. MILLAR.

MASTERS—

French and Italian	Mrs. C. C. Caillard.
German	Mdlle. Hottinger.
Music and Singing	J. Saville Stone, Esq., Associate, Royal Academy
Dancing and Painting	Mr. J. Hock.
Dancing and Calisthenics	Mr. C. Smart.
Chemistry	Dr. Albert J. Bernays, Professor of Chemistry at St. Thomas's Hospital, London.
Arithmetic	Mr. J. Hepworth.

The above branches of education are taught exclusively by the masters assigned to them. The general English education is under the immediate direction of the Principals and a committee of Governesses.

References to parents of pupils, and others, if required.

SCHOOL for YOUNG LADIES.

Mrs. and Miss FLETCHER propose OPENING a SCHOOL for a select number of Young Ladies at Christchurch, Hampshire, on August 2nd, 1869.

The locality offers all the advantages of a sea-side residence, the house and grounds being about a mile from the south coast, opposite the Isle of Wight.

The course of instruction will embrace all the usual branches of a sound English education, together with the French and German languages, Music, and Drawing.

References kindly permitted to the Rev. Thomas Binney, Upper Clapton; Rev. John Curwen, Finsbury; Rev. J. C. Harrison, 49, Gloucester-road, Regent's Park; Rev. N. Hurry, Bournemouth; Rev. G. B. Johnson, Edgbaston; Rev. Samuel Martin, 19, Belgrave-road, Pimlico; Rev. W. Major Pauli, Romsey; Rev. Professor H. R. Reynolds, Cheshunt College; Rev. George Smith, D.D., Poplar; Rev. John Woodward, Christchurch.

Prospectuses on application as below:—

Hengistbury House, Christchurch, March 12, 1869.

HOWARD HOUSE SCHOOL, Thame.

The above School was established in 1840, to give a practical commercial education, with Latin, Greek, French, Book-keeping, Commercial Correspondence, Drawing, and Music. This School has received a large share of patronage, on which Mr. MARSH deserves to return his thanks. To meet the increasing demand for admission into the above establishment, New School Rooms, six Class Rooms, Dining Hall, Lavatory, and Eighteen Dormitories, have been erected. Mr. MARSH is assisted by well-qualified English and French Masters. Prospectuses, with report of opening of the New School, and the Inaugural Address of the Rev. Charles Vince, of Birmingham, on application.

LONDON and SUBURBAN MUTUAL BUILDING-SOCIETY.

Enrolled in 1855, pursuant to Act of Parliament.

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